NABY KEITA • SEPP VAN DEN BERG • WEMBLEY PREVIEW • CHAMPIONS OF EUROPE: THE BOOK

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STILL LOVIN' IT

ROBBO AND TRENT: this one was for the fans

Contents



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YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
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WALL SMART

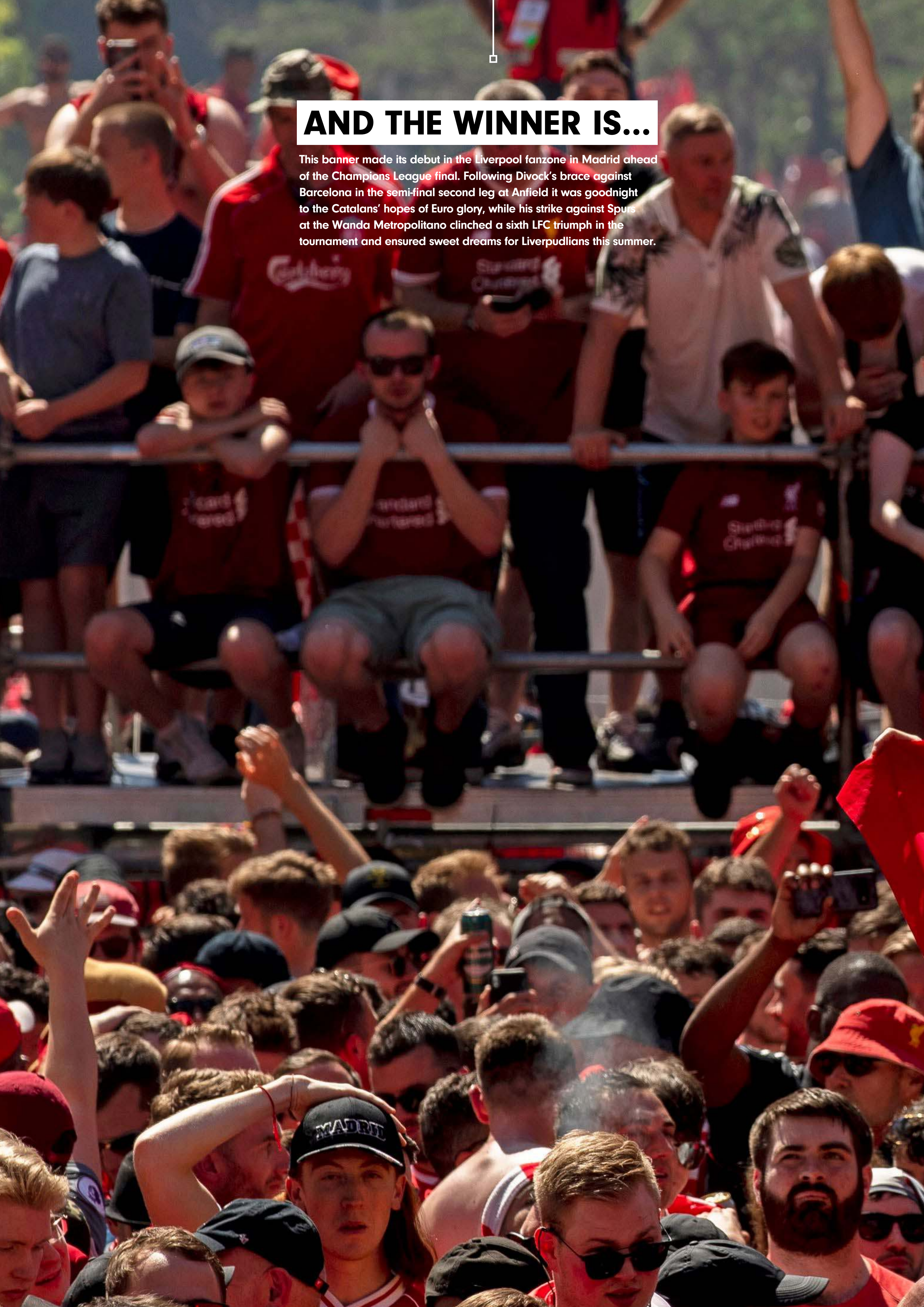
The Reds' success in Madrid last month meant the club has had to get the decorators into the Melwood training headquarters in West Derby! The Champions Wall in the reception area details LFC's proud roll of honour and you will notice the number under the Champions League trophy has now been changed from five to a lovely looking six!

pions Wall









AND THE WINNER IS...

This banner made its debut in the Liverpool fanzone in Madrid ahead of the Champions League final. Following Divock's brace against Barcelona in the semi-final second leg at Anfield it was goodnight to the Catalans' hopes of Euro glory, while his strike against Spurs at the Wanda Metropolitano clinched a sixth LFC triumph in the tournament and ensured sweet dreams for Liverpudlians this summer.


LIONEL MESSI
WEARS
DIVOCK ORIGI
PYJAMAS

VDB JOINS LFC

Meet Sepp van den Berg, 17 and newly arrived at Anfield. The promising Dutch centre-back, who joins the Reds from PEC Zwolle, says he's joined "the biggest club in the world. Of course, the trainer [Jürgen Klopp] is a great guy and one of the reasons they are successful – and also one of the reasons I came here." Welcome to LFC.



L.F.C.
AXA
L.F.C.

“This is about giving something back - the fans mean everything to us”

Trent Alexander-Arnold on the team’s debt to the supporters, their family and friends – and why there is still so much more to come



Interview transcribed by Amy Hamerslagh


Madrid
FINAL

YOU HAD A COMPETITION WITH FELLOW FULL-BACK ANDY ROBERTSON LAST SEASON TO SEE WHO COULD GET THE MOST ASSISTS – HOW MUCH DID THAT MOTIVATE YOU TO CREATE GOALS?

First and foremost it's about putting balls into the box and providing the attackers with good service to make them do what they do best. Obviously to be involved with loads of goals is really, really good. It shows that me and Robbo are doing something right. But at the end of the day it's important for us to win the game.

That's the main thing for us: winning the game. We haven't really focused on that little competition that much, we've tried to focus as much as possible on the team. But doing it has pushed us further and pushed us to our limits, so we've showed it's worked for us.

YOU TAKE A LOT OF SET-PIECES FOR LIVERPOOL NOW BUT YOU'RE NOT ALWAYS THE PLAYER WHO TAKES CORNERS AND FREE-KICKS – HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO MIX THINGS UP?

Everybody has probably seen the video of Virg shouting over and telling Shaq to take the free-kick at Newcastle [for Divock Origi's winning goal]. I wanted to take it, but the lads know best what they want, so Shaq took it.

It was similar to the smart corner that we did against Cardiff a few weeks earlier with Gini just holding his run [before scoring]. We're getting really good with set-pieces.

We're starting to use our initiative and it's not really structured – it's about having that understanding of what type of players and what type of balls they would like to receive. If someone's got space then they'll let the deliverers know and it's all about picking them out and hoping that they can finish the chances off.

WINNING THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AND DOING SO WELL IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE MADE 2018/19 A SPECIAL SEASON FOR LIVERPOOL...

Yes, it's obviously something really special, something I always wanted to be involved in. If you look at the progression that the club has made altogether in the last few seasons it has been really good, but we've still got a lot of potential to unlock.

I think it's important for us to keep focusing and to keep our big players to keep pushing forward. Hopefully next season we can do the same if not better.

IT FEELS LIKE THERE IS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIVERPOOL AND THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE...

If you think back to the games we had, the PSG group game [at home] was special. The way that we won that and then the Napoli game was special in its own right as well as we needed a certain type of result to go through. Everyone pushed through together as a club to get that result to make sure we got through into the knockout stages.

We then had the Barcelona games. Even this season we've had setbacks in the Champions League but we've shown that the competition is massive for us. The club has always had that special bond with the Champions League and if you ask the fans they'll say there's always been something special in the air no matter who the opposition it is.

There's always that relationship and growing up here you get taught that the club has always had a special relationship with the Champions League.



Competing with England colleague Dele Alli in the Madrid final





WHAT DOES JÜRGEN KLOPP SAY TO YOU IN THE DRESSING-ROOM BEFORE BIG CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GAMES?

He just lets us know about the fans and how much it means to them. I think it's important for the players to know how much it actually does mean to them, and I think it's important for the fans to know how much it means to us also.

It's important to us to do well for the people around us, you know, our families, our friends and for the people who support us through the tough times – the people that give you smiles when we need them and hug us when we're down. So it's about giving back to them and generally to the people who support us all season.

SO HOW IMPORTANT HAVE LIVERPOOL'S SUPPORTERS BEEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS OF THIS TEAM?

The fans are probably the most important people for us as players. They're the ones who make it enjoyable, the ones who get to celebrate with us and we get to celebrate with them. They go through all of the emotions we go through, but we're more in control of the game than they are so it's probably harder for them.

But yes, the fans are massive for us so it's something we want to do – give back as much as possible and provide them with joy and excitement. We want to be an exciting team, we want to go out there and show the world that we have the mentality that anything's possible and that we can beat anyone.

FINALLY, IT'S WELL-KNOWN THAT YOU'RE A LIFELONG LIVERPOOL SUPPORTER BUT WERE THERE ANY RIGHT-BACKS FROM OTHER CLUBS YOU LOOKED AT WHEN DEVELOPING YOUR OWN GAME?

When I was growing up in Liverpool, trying to learn how to play, I was looking up to the likes of Cafu and Dani Alves because they were the world's best. They knew what they were doing. It was important to try to learn from them as much as I could.

So yes, I would say they were both role-models for me and they won so many trophies, especially Dani Alves. It's incredible, the amount of trophies he's won, so that's something I want to replicate, to hopefully win the same amount that they have.

That champion feeling

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

Who'd have thunk it? From the silver-lined sorrow of Kiev to the golden sky-high of Madrid, here's the before and after of Liverpool's last two Champions League seasons





DUA VERSUS THE DRAGONS

Last season Dua Lipa and her girls had the red end of Kiev's Olympic Stadium bouncing along to her big hit *One Kiss*. LA rockers Imagine Dragons were never quite going to match that, but their loud, blaring little set did get the blood pumping just before kick-off in Madrid's Wanda Metropolitana.

2019

2018

JUST A MO

It only feels like yesterday (well, give or take 12 months) since Mo Salah's Champions League dream ended in tears following a first-half challenge that forced his premature exit with a dislocated shoulder. Just minutes into the Madrid final, he was on his knees again, this time sliding to celebrate the successful conversion of his spot-kick against Spurs. Yas!

2019

2018

DIFFERENT GOALS

A year-and-a-bit ago Sadio Mane's sweet volley gave us hope in Kiev, after centre-back Dejan Lovren had risen above the Real Madrid defence to power a header into the striker's path six yards out. This time it was Liverpool central defenders Virgil van Dijk and Joel Matip who created havoc among the Spurs back-line with just a few minutes remaining, for Divock Origi to adjust his feet and rifle home the goal that brought the Kopite house down.

2018

2019

LADY AND GENT IN RED

Linda Pizzuti and husband John Henry, the club's principal owner, put on brave faces after the defeat to Real Madrid on 26 May 2018. Twelve months on and they were pitchside and colour-co-ordinated once more after the Champions League final – with an extra little accessory this time for the photo album.

2018

2019

PODIUM POSITION

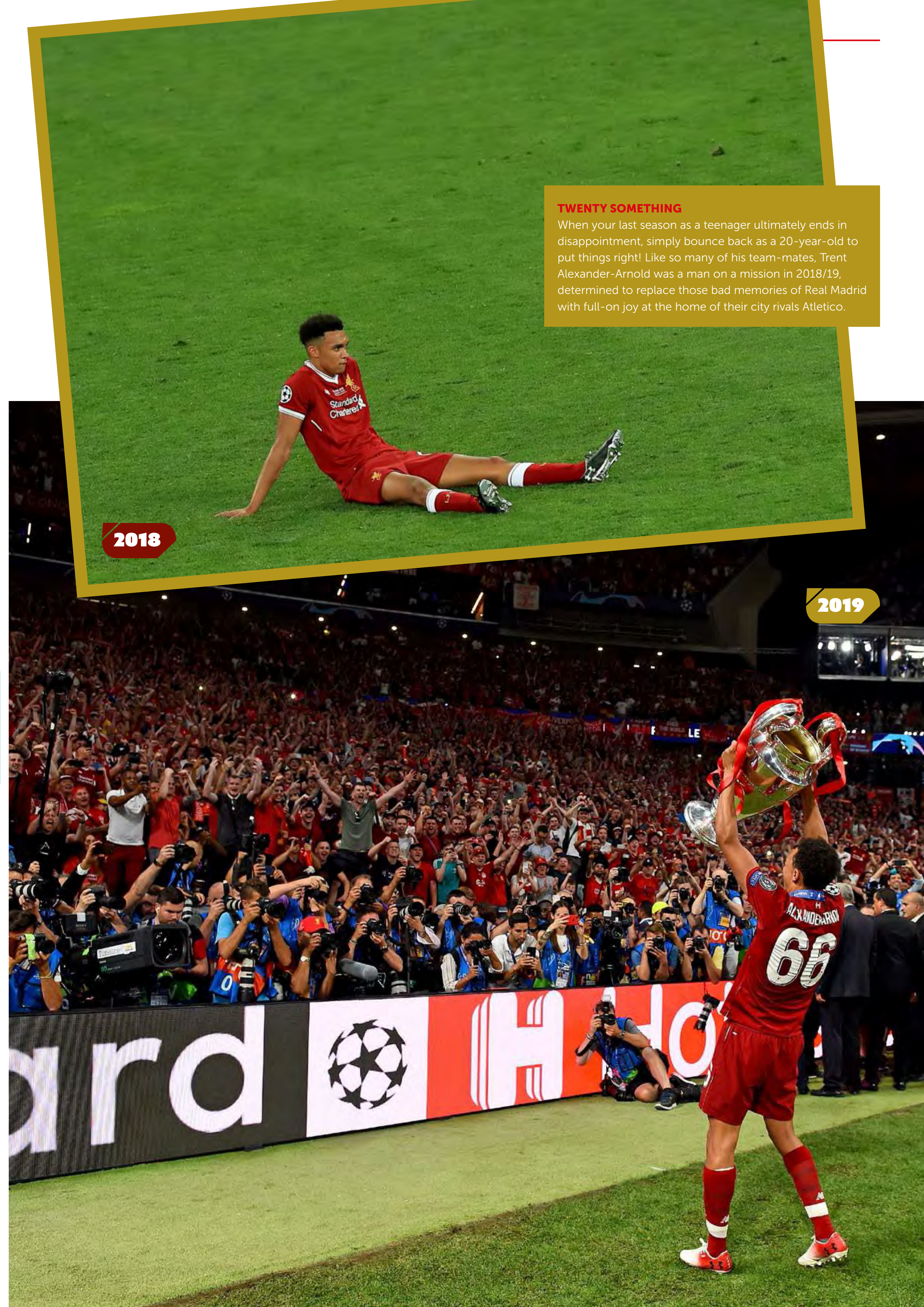
What can be worse than having to trudge up onto that podium, do the obligatory handshakes and pick up your runners-up medal? What could be better than piling onto said podium a year later, in another country, and crowding around the captain as he launches that big beautiful cup high into the night air to a deafening cheer?

SADNESS TO SMILES

Last season the travelling Reds could hardly believe what had happened in front of them, although the collective experience of Kiev – the mad journeys, big laughs and rambunctious singsongs, and the hospitality of the locals – remained an altogether positive one. In Madrid at the final whistle it was one big party, with Jürgen conducting the cheers.

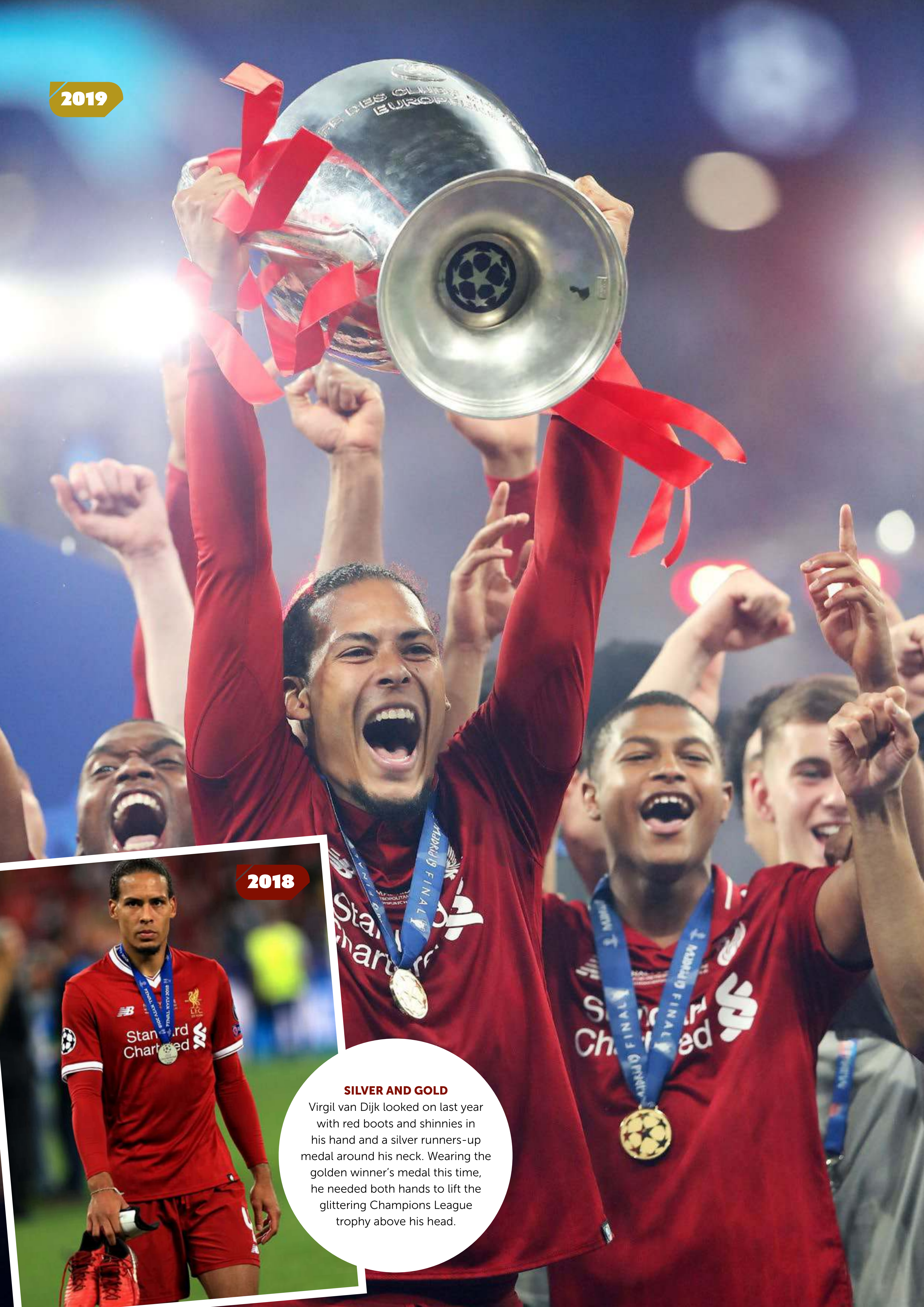






TWENTY SOMETHING

When your last season as a teenager ultimately ends in disappointment, simply bounce back as a 20-year-old to put things right! Like so many of his team-mates, Trent Alexander-Arnold was a man on a mission in 2018/19, determined to replace those bad memories of Real Madrid with full-on joy at the home of their city rivals Atletico.



SILVER AND GOLD
Virgil van Dijk looked on last year with red boots and shinnies in his hand and a silver runners-up medal around his neck. Wearing the golden winner's medal this time, he needed both hands to lift the glittering Champions League trophy above his head.



CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS
One of the most emotional moments in Madrid had to be when Jordan Henderson and Jürgen Klopp embraced at the end of the game. What a contrast to Kiev back in 2018 when skipper and boss could only console each other in defeat.

BOBBY DAZZLER
Our number nine was thoroughly dejected as Real Madrid celebrated their goals last season, but that blindingly bright smile was back in the Wanda Metropolitano when it was his turn to show off the trophy to the red hordes behind the goal.



"HUGE SURPRISE, I WAS BLOWN AWAY!"

Tom Green, Reading



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2019

2018

SUPPORT AND BELIEVE

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain was only a few weeks into his recovery from the serious knee-injury sustained in last season's semi-final against Roma, with a long hard summer of rehab ahead of him, as he and his team-mates watched Real Madrid lift the cup. In his wildest dreams could he have imagined that he and girlfriend Perrie Edwards would be posing with the trophy one year later – with Hendo taking the shot?!

2018

2019

LOV SUPREME

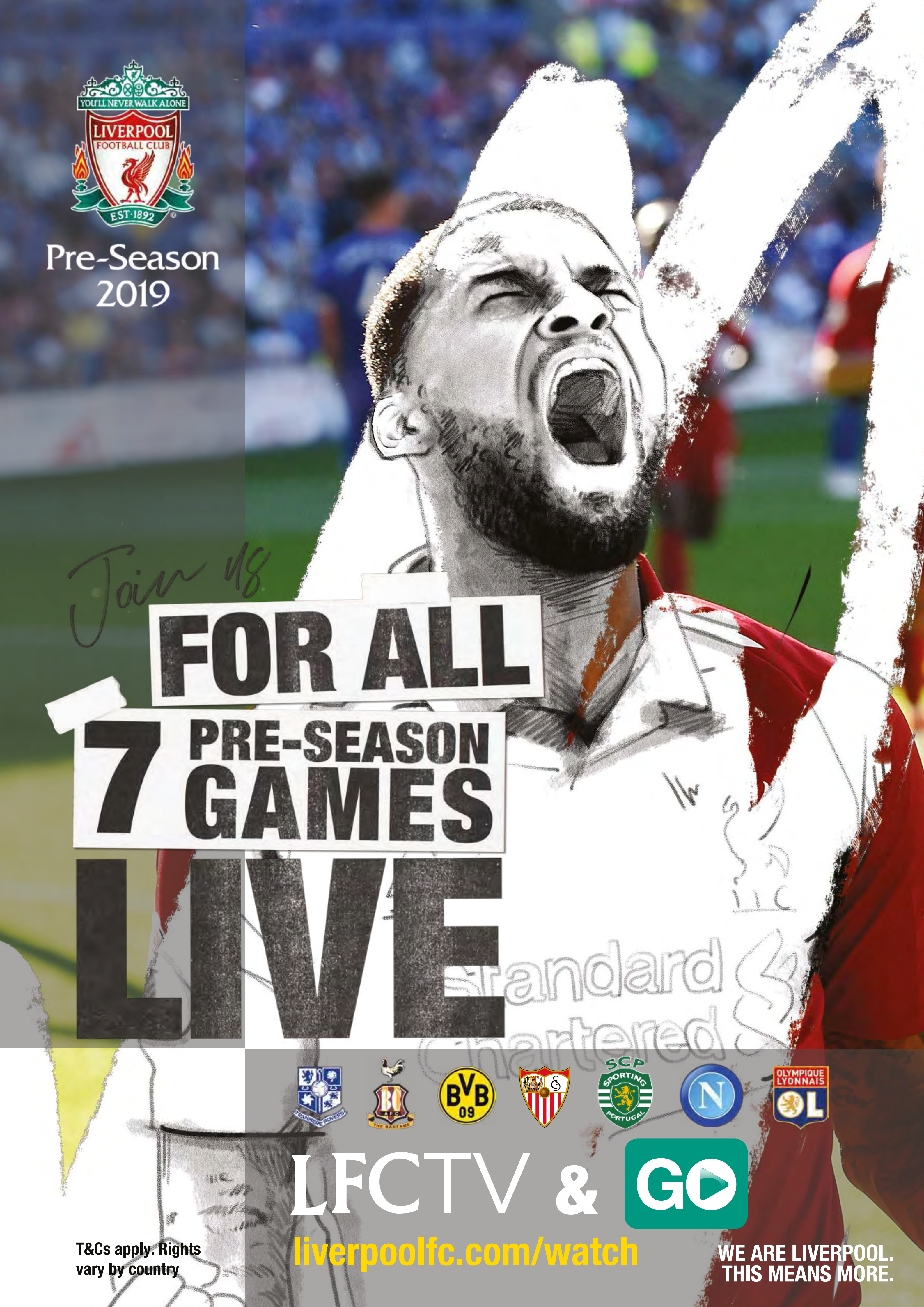
Dejan Lovren was arguably the most distraught Liverpool player of all after the defeat to Real Madrid, having given everything for the cause and played his part in the equaliser. Fast-forward a year and the likeable Croat was all smiles as he got his hands on Ol' Big Ears at last.



KLOPP'S CUP
For a brief moment last year the manager cut a solitary figure walking past the trophy. This time he was the centre of his first-team squad's universe as he prepared to lift the cup aloft – and you can see just how much it meant to the players.



HEAR THE KOPITES SING!
Sadio Mane had done all that he could in Kiev, but it wasn't to be. In Madrid he was a constant threat to Tottenham and an outlet when the pressure mounted in the second half. Here he is with the Champions League trophy draped in the Senegalese flag.


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“We’re nothing without the fans - they are the heart of the club”

Liverpool’s phenomenal support at home and abroad will drive this team on to even greater things, insists Andy Robertson


FINAL MADRID 2019
L.F.C.
62

DID YOUR ASSISTS COMPETITION WITH TRENT DRIVE YOU BOTH ON TO REACH NEW HEIGHTS LAST SEASON?

I think so. We could look at what each other was doing, especially the good things. That's why we have private competitions that drive each other on because we enjoy seeing each other doing well. I get as much buzz at seeing him assist a goal or make a goal-line challenge than I do for myself because I know we're part of a good defence, but we're a duo in the full-back positions.

We both want each other to do as well as we can do. We don't talk about the art of full-back play or anything like that. We just enjoy seeing each other doing well. Of course if one of us sees something in the game that the other can take advantage of then we'll talk to each other and try and do it. But it's definitely just about trying to improve each other and take confidence from the other playing so well.

It got to the point where we've pushed each other last season and we've both produced very good numbers. Trent went on an unbelievable run of form in terms of assists and he was putting it on a plate for the lads. But personal records mean nothing to me, they mean nothing to Trent, they mean nothing to any of the lads. It's all about team trophies because it's a team game.

We want the team to win trophies, we don't really care about personal records – we'd much rather have the European Cup sitting next to us!

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST COMMON FEELING GOING INTO THAT FINAL MONTH OF THE SEASON?

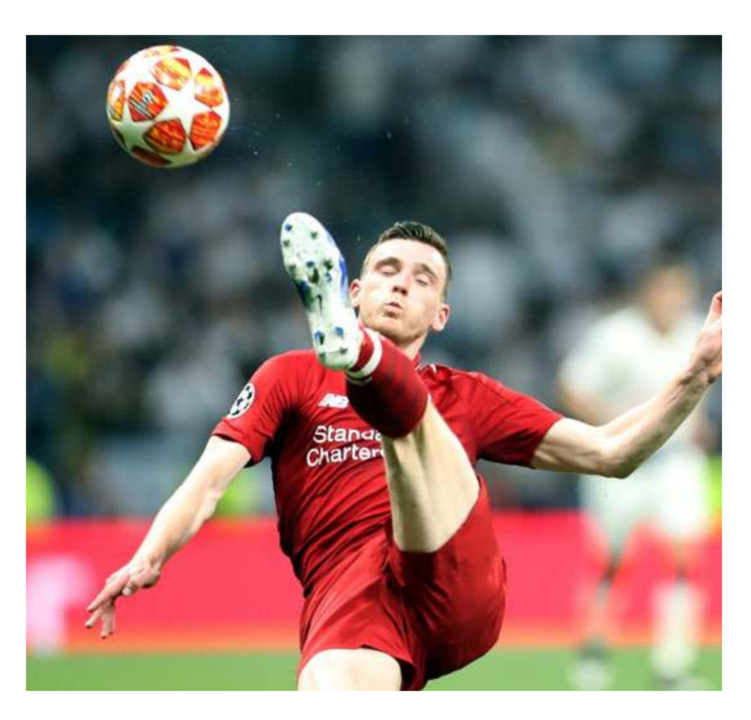
Exhaustion, I think! We were excited that we were going into the last week of the Premier League season and we were still fighting for two competitions. A lot of teams were going into that last week with nothing to play for and we were fighting for the two biggest trophies.

It was great that we could celebrate winning one of them.

HOW DID YOU CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS AT TIMES LIKE THOSE?

It's about just trying to switch off at the right moments but then control your emotions when you have to. We were playing in high-stake games where we were tired so it was all about trying to stay in control and enjoy the challenge instead of fear it.

I think we did that throughout the whole season and whether we had fallen short or not, we could look back at the season and be proud of what we'd done. It's nice that we can do that with a trophy in our hands and now we feel we can build on that season for the coming years because we have a relatively young squad.



HOW DO YOU REFLECT ON THE PREMIER LEAGUE CAMPAIGN NOW?

The points tally was incredible and usually it would have been enough to win any other Premier League season but last year was unique. To get 97 points and not end up with the title was tough to take. But that's the standard that us and Man City have set and I'm sure it will be like that in years to come.

People will need to 'up' their game to catch these points tallies because hopefully we're not going anywhere and it doesn't look like City are going anywhere, so it's up to the other teams to come with us.

The first reaction was that we were devastated but I think that once the dust settled we could look back on the season and ask: did we do everything that we could? I think the answer is yes. We gave 100 per cent in every single game.

Yes, we were not at our best sometimes, but the attitude and commitment of the lads was there to be seen and I think all the Liverpool fans can look back at the 97 points and be proud of the team regardless, especially with the Champions League in the trophy cabinet.

As Andy tweeted: "Just a wee guy from Glasgow living the absolute dream"

HOW BIG WAS THE INFLUENCE OF THE MANAGER IN SUCH A SUCCESSFUL SEASON?

The backroom staff have been unbelievable and obviously the gaffer is at the front of that. The players have reacted off him. This team doesn't know when we are beaten and that's drilled into us from him and his assistants and all the staff behind them. We have a never-say-die attitude and that's why we picked up so many late points.

Everyone at Melwood can be proud of themselves and it was nice that we could give all the backroom staff something to celebrate because they deserved it more than anyone.

YOU HAVE DEVELOPED A PARTICULARLY STRONG CONNECTION WITH THE FANS...

I think that's just part and parcel of being a footballer. All the lads in this club do it really well. We know how important the fans are – the ones that follow us up and down the country and into Europe every single game. There's never a spare seat to be seen, and all the lads are conscious of that. We appreciate the support that they give us. The club's nothing without the fans – they are the heart of the club and that's what keeps us going.

YOU'VE NOW JOINED THE RANKS OF SCOTS WHO HAVE WON A EUROPEAN TROPHY WITH LIVERPOOL...

When I signed, I could feel the history of Scottish players at Liverpool. I met Kenny [Dalglish] and then Gary McAllister and Alan Hansen and these are all people who played with Scotland and Liverpool and did incredibly well. You do feel as though you are carrying the flag a little bit and it's something that I relish.

If I achieve even a hundredth of what Kenny did at the club then I'm sure I'll have been successful.

It's obviously brilliant to win the Champions League and hopefully I can win more trophies here too.

DID YOU APPRECIATE THE SIZE AND PULL OF LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB WHEN YOU FIRST SIGNED FROM HULL CITY BACK IN THE SUMMER OF 2017?

You realise it a wee bit more when you go on the pre-season tours and things like that. When we were in America last time, we sold out all three stadiums and there was a big Liverpool fanbase and the lads were obviously delighted.

In China the pre-season before, it was the same. That's when you realise how big a club it is. When you're at Melwood you're obviously in the Liverpool bubble and you can just think it's the fans round about, but then when you see the tours and the level of interest in the Champions League final you realise it's a worldwide club.

It's one of the biggest clubs in the world and that's what comes with having fans far and wide who support us in every way that they can.



Jumping for joy in front of the massed ranks of Reds in the Wanda Metropolitano


CLUBS CHAMPIONS
EUROPÉENS

HAPPY TO

TRENT ALEXANDER-ARNOLD

PREMIER LEAGUE

1 Southampton (H) 22 Southampton 2018: out-swinging corner from the right headed home by Joel Matip from eight yards out for his first Anfield goal.
2 Fulham (H) 11 November 2018: Alisson launches a quick-counter attack and Trent passes from inside his own half to send Mo racing clear to open the scoring.
3 Newcastle United (H) 26 December 2018: takes a pass from Jordan Henderson on the right and fires in a low cross for Shaqiri to tap home the third goal of the Boxing Day victory.
4 Watford (H) 27 February 2019: receives a pass from Milner and whips in a vicious cross for Mane to head home from the middle of the six-yard box.
5 Watford (H) 27 February 2019: again picks out Mane in the area who produces a brilliant piece of improvisation to beat keeper Ben Foster with a clever back-heel.
6 Watford (H) 27 February 2019: Whips in a fine free-kick with pace for Virgil to score with a header at the back post in front of the Kop.
7 Southampton (A) 5 April 2019: cross from the by-line picks out Keita who heads home his first Liverpool goal to bring the Reds level at St Mary's.
8 Cardiff City (A) 21 April 2019: clever corner to play in Gini Wijnaldum who's pulled away from his marker to produce a brilliant first-time finish.
9 Huddersfield Town (H) 26 April 2019: quick thinking sees Trent play a ball from his own half to pick out the run of Mo who clips the ball over the advancing keeper.
10 Newcastle United (A) 4 May 2019: corner picks out an unmarked Van Dijk who heads home to open the scoring at St James' Park as the Reds push for the title.
11 Newcastle United (A) 4 May 2019: cross from the right touchline finds Mo who brilliantly sweeps the ball in on the volley to restore the Reds' advantage.
12 Wolves (H) 12 May 2019: fine ball into the box to pick out Mane who heads home his and LFC's second and final goal of the Premier League season (Trent wasn't credited by the PL for Sadio's first).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1 Porto (H) 9 April 2019: low cross for Roberto Firmino to sweep in from close range after Trent had been slid in by an excellent pass by Jordan Henderson.
2 Porto (A) 17 April 2019: slide-rule pass to find Mo who makes it 2-0 in the Estadio do Dragao early in the second half.
3 Barcelona (H) 7 May 2019: low cross from near the right touchline to pick out the run of Gini who sweeps home to make it 2-0 on the night.
4 Barcelona (H) 7 May 2019: quickly-taken corner catches Barcelona cold as he plays in Divock Origi to score in front of the Kop and make it 4-0, completing one of the most remarkable comebacks in Champions League history.



ASSIST

Each and every one of Trent and Robbo's crucial contributions throughout the 2018/19 campaign



ANDY ROBERTSON

PREMIER LEAGUE

1 West Ham (H) 12 August 2018: after being played in by Naby Keita, his low cross for Mo Salah gets the Reds' season up-and-running.
2 Leicester City (A) 1 September 2018: does well down the Leicester left before cutting the ball back for the onrushing Sadio Mane who does the rest.
3 Fulham (H) 11 November 2018: deep cross to the back post met by a lovely cushioned volley from Xherdan Shaqiri.
4 Bournemouth (A) 8 December 2018: low cross from the left diverted into own net by Bournemouth's Steve Cook to make it 3-0 midway through the second half.
5 Manchester City (A) 3 January 2019: superb volleyed cross after being picked out by fellow full-back Trent's deep cross-field pass, allowing Bobby to score with a diving header.
6 Crystal Palace (H) 19 January 2019: slides to keep the ball in play in front of the Sir Kenny Dalglish Stand before sending Mane away to cut in from the left to make it 4-2.
7 Bournemouth (H) 9 February 2019: chipped pass forward for Gini Wijnaldum who calmly lobs keeper Artur Boruc to double the lead.
8 Watford (H) 27 February 2019: cross from the left for Virgil van Dijk to head in his second goal of the game.
9 Tottenham Hotspur (H) 31 March 2019: cross from left met by Firmino's header to open the scoring.
10 Huddersfield Town (H) 26 April 2019: another fine cross from the left which is met by a Mane header to double Liverpool's lead.
11 Huddersfield Town (H) 26 April 2019: low centre tapped home by Mo to wrap up a 5-0 win over the Terriers on a Friday night.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1 Paris Saint-Germain (H) 18 September 2018: inviting cross from the left headed home by Sturridge to open LFC's Champions League account for 2018/19.
2 Red Star Belgrade (H) 24 October 2018: picked out by a Shaqiri pass, then pulls the ball back to Bobby who opens the scoring at the Anfield Road end.

REDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Next month's curtain-raiser against Manchester City at Wembley will be Liverpool's 22nd appearance in the FA Community Shield – cue the highlights reel

ANFIELD SOUTH

Such was Liverpool's success during the Seventies and Eighties that a date at Wembley in the traditional season-opener became a regular engagement in the diary. Between 1976 and 1990 the Reds took part in the Community Shield on 11 occasions, winning six and sharing the silverware three times.




FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
CHARITY









CROUCHIE'S WINNER

Liverpool's last triumph in the Community Shield came back in 2006 when they defeated Jose Mourinho's Chelsea 2-1 in Cardiff.

Left-back Riise's solo effort after nine minutes was cancelled out by Andriy Shevchenko just before half-time. But Rafa's Reds secured the Shield ten minutes from time when substitute Craig Bellamy attacked down the left and picked out Peter Crouch at the back-post with a perfect cross.

The England forward headed home to ensure Jamie Carragher, captaining the team in the absence of the injured Steven Gerrard, got his hands on the first honours of the 2006/07 season.

ALDO AT THE DOUBLE

John Aldridge went some way to banishing the memories of his penalty-miss in the 1988 FA Cup final against Wimbledon by scoring twice against the Dons when the clubs met again at Wembley the following August.

Liverpool probably felt a sense of deja-vu when John Fashanu headed in Dennis Wise's cross to give Bobby Gould's side the lead after 17 minutes.

But they were soon level with Aldo finding a gaping goal following clever work from John Barnes after keeper Simon Tracey had raced from his area to make a headed clearance.

Liverpool won it with just over 20 minutes remaining with a spectacular acrobatic effort from Aldridge.

Once again Barnes was at his brilliant best to have the Wimbledon defence on the back-foot as he skipped down the left from his own half before picking out the Scouser, who flicked the ball up with his first touch before twisting his body and leaping to fire home a volley with his second.

BIG-MATCH BLOOPERS

Liverpool's 21 games in the Community Shield have included a couple of memorable mishaps.

In 1984 the Reds met Merseyside rivals Everton at Wembley in what was becoming a regular reconvening of the two clubs at the national stadium. However, Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar will not have fond memories of the goal that decided the outcome.

Everton striker Graeme Sharp broke clear on goal but was denied by Brucie as he attempted to round him and fire home. The loose ball broke back to Sharp whose effort was blocked by his Scotland team-mate Alan Hansen only it to rebound onto the leg of Grobbelaar and roll into the back of the unguarded net.

Liverpool had their own slice of fortune in the 1992 Shield, the last time they took part in the fixture at Wembley. But on that occasion it was too little, too late, as they trailed Leeds United 4-2 with just a minute remaining – Eric Cantona scoring a hat-trick for the Yorkshire side.

Still, the Reds' third goal (right) doesn't get any less comical with the passing of the years. Leeds failed to clear a corner and centre-back Mark Wright fired a shot in at goal. Gordon Strachan, defending on the post, contrived to play the ball from his right foot onto his left, inadvertently back-heeling it, before back-heeling it again with his right and over the goal-line.

Check it out on YouTube!













SIX APPEAL

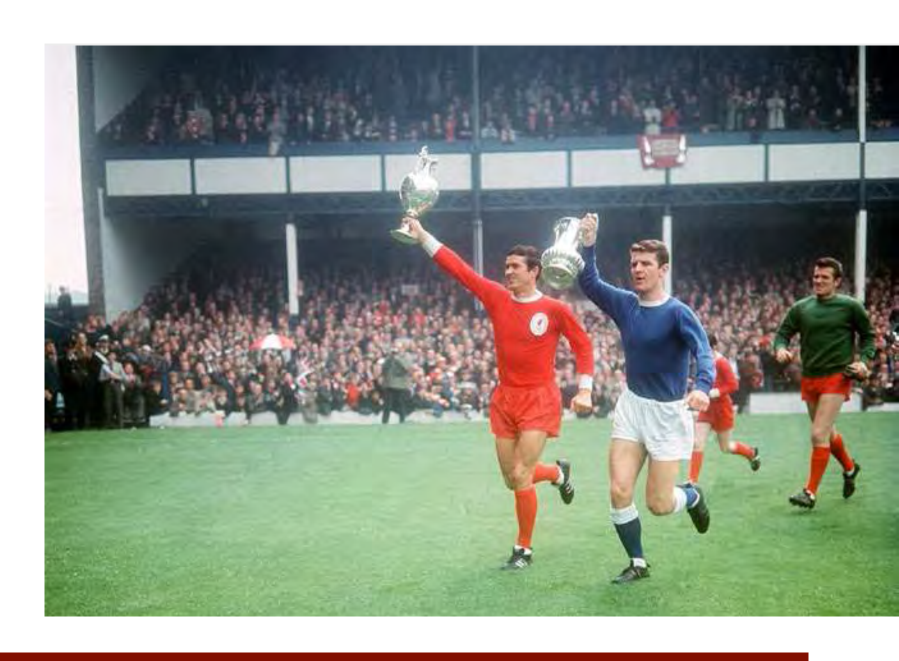
We quite like talking about the number six right now! Did you know that Liverpool have contested the FA Charity/Community Shield at six different venues?

Thirteen of our 21 appearances have taken place at Wembley, three at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff and two at Old Trafford. Of the remaining three matches, one was held at Filbert Street and the other two on Merseyside.

In August 1964, Anfield played host to the fixture with Liverpool playing out an entertaining 2-2 draw with West Ham United. Gordon Wallace and Gerry Byrne twice put the Reds ahead only for Ron Greenwood's side to cancel them out on each occasion through John Byrne and Geoff Hurst.

In 1966 the match was staged at Goodison Park in a game which saw Liverpool skipper Ron Yeats and Everton captain Brian Labone parade the League championship trophy and FA Cup respectively (right), and Reds forward Roger Hunt and Blues defender Ray Wilson show off the Jules Rimet Trophy before kick-off.

Hunt scored the only goal in the ninth minute as Liverpool went on to lift the trophy outright for the first time.









TEMPER TEMPER

Liverpool defeated Leeds United 6-5 on penalties in the 1974 Charity Shield in the first competitive shoot-out in which the Reds had taken part – and the first fixture in which Bob Paisley and Brian Clough were in charge of their respective teams.

But the match was infamous for the sight of the bare-chested Kevin Keegan and Billy Bremner leaving the pitch in disgrace following a fracas in which they traded punches. An FA disciplinary committee later charged the pair with bringing the game into disrepute and imposed a then unprecedented punishment.

On top of their automatic three-match suspensions Keegan and Bremner were fined £500 each by the FA and banned until the end of September, meaning they missed 11 matches each in total.

FIRST AND LAST

Liverpool's first appearance in the Charity Shield, as it was formerly known, came in May 1922. It was also the last time that the fixture was played at the end of the season in which the League champions and FA Cup winners had secured their respective pieces of silverware.

It was first played in the 1908/09 season to replace the Sheriff of London Charity Shield (contested between the best amateur and professional team in the land). Liverpool had won the 1906 fixture, beating Corinthians 5-1 at Craven Cottage with striker Joe Hewitt scoring a hat-trick.

The Twenties clash saw David Ashworth's Liverpool take on FA Cup winners Huddersfield Town, managed by Herbert Chapman who'd go on to achieve further success with Arsenal. It was also the first time both competing clubs were from the north, so the venue moved out of London to Old Trafford.

The Terriers triumphed 1-0 but it was still a day of great joy for the Reds with captain Donald Mackinlay being presented with the League championship trophy by Football League chairman and former LFC chairman John McKenna. Local newspapers reported that on the team's return on the train from Manchester, Mackinlay was "picked up and carried in triumph out of the station."



FOXY BINGO

In August 1971 the Charity Shield was played at Filbert Street, home of Leicester City. If that seems surprising, even more so was the fact that the Foxes were one of the teams taking part.

Arsenal had won the league-and-cup double in 1971, becoming only the second club in the 20th century to do so. But whereas that would usually confirm their place in the Shield, they had other plans for August with a series of friendlies against Benfica and Feyenoord.

So who would get the honour of playing against Liverpool, who'd lost the FA Cup final to the Gunners the previous May. For reasons that never became entirely clear, Leeds (the runners-up in the league), Tottenham (the League Cup winners) and Chelsea (the Cup-Winners' Cup holders) were overlooked in favour of Leicester, the Second Division champions.

Foxes defender Steve Whitworth played 353 league matches for the club and a total of 400 first team games – 17 against Liverpool. However, his only goal for the club was the one that decided this Charity Shield clash as he found a way past Ray Clemence after 15 minutes for the game's decisive moment.

SHIELD STATS

1922	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 1 LIVERPOOL 0
1964	LIVERPOOL 2 WEST HAM UNITED 2*
1965	MANCHESTER UNITED 2 LIVERPOOL 2*
1966	EVERTON 0 LIVERPOOL 1
1971	LEICESTER CITY 1 LIVERPOOL 0
1974	LIVERPOOL 1 LEEDS UNITED 1 (LFC WON 6-5 ON PENALTIES)
1976	LIVERPOOL 1 SOUTHAMPTON 0
1977	LIVERPOOL 0 MANCHESTER UNITED 0*
1979	LIVERPOOL 3 MANCHESTER UNITED 1
1980	LIVERPOOL 1 WEST HAM UNITED 0
1982	LIVERPOOL 1 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0
1983	LIVERPOOL 0 MANCHESTER UNITED 2
1984	LIVERPOOL 0 EVERTON 1
1986	LIVERPOOL 1 EVERTON 1*
1988	LIVERPOOL 2 WIMBLEDON 1
1989	LIVERPOOL 1 ARSENAL 0
1990	MANCHESTER UNITED 1 LIVERPOOL 1*
1992	LEEDS UNITED 4 LIVERPOOL 3
2001	LIVERPOOL 2 MANCHESTER UNITED 1
2002	ARSENAL 1 LIVERPOOL 0
2006	LIVERPOOL 2 CHELSEA 1

*TROPHY SHARED





"SHANKS WOULD SAY 'DON'T LET THE FANS DOWN'. IT WAS ALL ABOUT MAKING THEIR LIVES A BIT BETTER"

Ian St John

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STUNNING STRIKES

Liverpool have scored some memorable goals in the FA Community/Charity Shield over the years – none more so than Kenny Dalglish's cracker in 1979.

Kenny, then 28, had made his Reds debut in the fixture two years previously. Against the Gunners he was indebted to fellow Scot and pal Alan Hansen, who snuffed out an attack in the centre-circle before setting off on one of his trademark forward forays. He feinted past Liam Brady and surged into Arsenal territory before releasing Dalglish who sat defender Steve Walford on his backside with a clever cut-back before firing low past goalie Pat Jennings. Team-mate Terry McDermott also netted twice in that 3-1 win at Wembley.

More recently John Arne Riise's goal (right and below) in Liverpool's last Charity Shield appearance runs it close. From his own area the Norwegian surged up the right flank of the Millennium Stadium before cutting inside and beating Blues keeper Carlo Cudicini with a drive from 25 yards.







RUSH HOURS

Ian Rush has scored in three Charity Shields for the Reds, finding the net in a win, a draw and a defeat. His cool finish from Phil Thompson's fine pass was enough to win the 1982 fixture against Tottenham, while four years later his late strike following a one-two with player-manager Kenny Dalglish secured a share of the trophy following a 1-1 draw with Everton.

The Welshman was also on target in 1992, heading home Liverpool's equaliser against Leeds United but the Reds went on to lose 4-3 to Howard Wilkinson's league champions.

Rush shares the honour of scoring most goals for Liverpool in Charity Shield fixtures with Terry McDermott, whose treble of strikes all came in winning causes.

Twice on target in the 3-1 defeat of Arsenal in 1979, the Kirkby lad also fired home the winner against West Ham United 12 months later.




L.F.C.
15

DANIEL'S DREAM ENDING

Striker Sturridge bids farewell to Liverpool FC having played his part in one of the club's finest European campaigns



Signing in, Melwood, January 2013


Signing off, Madrid, June 2019

Daniel Sturridge, still only 29, said his goodbyes to the Reds soon after becoming a Champions League winner for the second time.

He first received a medal in 2012 as an unused substitute for Chelsea in their final win against Bayern Munich. Now he has a pair after seven appearances for Liverpool in the 2018/19 tournament. Former Aston Villa and Manchester United goalkeeper Jimmy Rimmer is the only other Englishman to have won the trophy with two different clubs.

Daniel leaves Liverpool with a record of 67 goals in 160 appearances which sees him comfortably placed in the top 40 of the club's all-time goalscorers [Mo Salah and Roberto Firmino are also in that chart with Sadio Mane just a couple of goals away].

At the time of his arrival in January 2013 he was a hungry 23-year-old looking to prove himself at the top level after failing to make his mark at Manchester City and Chelsea. His £12 million signing from the West Londoners was seen as something of a gamble, but he soon showed his quality and made the price tag look like a bargain.

Sturridge scored seven minutes into his debut in an FA Cup tie at Mansfield and in each of his first three appearances – something no Liverpool player had done since Ray Kennedy in 1974. He ended that first half-season with ten Premier League goals and his wobbly-arms dance routine was copied by thousands of children throughout Merseyside and beyond.

His first full season at Anfield, 2013/14, saw Sturridge flourish in a strike-partnership with Luis Suarez with the pair being dubbed the SAS. Teed up by Steven Gerrard's promptings behind them, their goals took the Reds to the brink of Premier League glory with the no15 scoring 21 times to fire himself into England's squad for the World Cup finals. Suarez added a further 31 in the Premier League despite missing the first six games of the season due to suspension.

Daniel's 2014/15 campaign was badly disrupted by injuries which restricted him to only a dozen Premier League matches plus six cup ties. He underwent hip surgery and, mindful of the need for a full rehabilitation, new manager Jürgen Klopp used him sparingly following his appointment in October 2015.

He still made telling contributions, however, and added a goal in a European final to his CV with a brilliant strike in the Europa League



The first of two stunners against Chelsea last season


That goal v Sevilla in the Europa League final



Scoring in the famous 5-1 win over Arsenal



With captains old and new


First league goal for LFC, at Old Trafford



Thumper versus old club Man City


Lashing one in at Stoke

showpiece against Sevilla in Basel. Unfortunately the Reds ran out of steam in the second half and it was the Spaniards who won the trophy, but what a goal it was.

The next season-and-a-half saw Sturridge make only 29 league appearances and in January 2018 he was loaned out to West Brom for the remainder of the season in a bid to gain more game-time.

A good pre-season back at Melwood saw him return to Klopp's plans. Again he found it tough to break into the preferred front-three of Salah, Mane and Firmino, but he made an impact, particularly during September.

It was his header from an Andy Robertson cross that got Liverpool's Champions League campaign up and running against Paris Saint-Germain, and his brilliant late equaliser at Chelsea preserved the Reds' unbeaten start to the Premier League season.

That goal at Stamford Bridge was to prove his last in a Liverpool shirt and a couple of days after the Champions League success in Madrid it was confirmed that his time at Anfield was at an end.

Manager Klopp said: "Daniel has earned the right to be considered a modern-day Liverpool great, I would think. He came to the club while we were trying to rebuild and re-establish ourselves. Some of the goals he has scored for Liverpool were so, so, so important."

Sturridge posted an open letter to staff and supporters on his Instagram account, featuring the following remarks:

"What can I say… It's been one hell of a ride at this beautiful club. We were together for seven seasons and took a little break in between. We had a lot of highs and lows together but through it all remained together knowing that one day we'd have to break up. That time is now.

"I wanna say to the fans I love you all. You made me feel so welcome and embraced me with open arms. The Sturridge dance became famous at Anfield and I'll never forget the first time I did it in front of the Kop.

"To my team-mates old and new, thank you for the memories,



the banter was unreal. You all played a part in making me the man I am today. This isn't a goodbye because Lord knows we'll stay in touch no matter where I am, so speak soon.

"To the coaching staff, thank you for everything, pushing me to my limits in every aspect to become the best I can be, that goes for both old and new. Special shout out to the managers, Jürgen and Brendan, for guiding my steps and helping me be the best I can be.

"I'm so happy I was a part of the club's sixth Champions League win because all the fans have deserved it for all the support they've given me and [the] club during my tenure. I wish you all the best in the future and more success for the club.

"Thank you for the memories. Much love, Daniel."



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ADIOS ALBERTO



So long and very best wishes to left-back Alberto Moreno, one of the first-team squad's most popular members

Players and staff returning to Melwood for pre-season will have felt the absence of Alberto Moreno keenly. The Spanish left-back, who's just turned 27, was a hugely popular figure around the club's training HQ and his sunny personality will be a big miss for all those in the Reds camp.

He signed for Liverpool from Sevilla in August 2014 for a fee of £12 million, becoming the second Spanish full-back to join in less than a week following Javier Manquillo's loan switch from Atletico Madrid.

Upon signing, he told this magazine that he had conducted his own due diligence on the Reds before moving to Merseyside from his hometown club: "I spoke with Xabi Alonso, Pepe Reina and Alvaro Arbeloa. They told me this is a spectacular club whose fans follow it in a very special way. They all told me I can grow a lot here as a footballer."

Manager Brendan Rodgers selected Manquillo for the 2014/15 season opener against Southampton but Moreno started the Reds' second Premier League game at Manchester City and was a regular thereafter, going on to make 41 appearances in his debut season.

His all-action displays and liking for supporting the attack saw him nail down his place in the team and a brilliant goal in a 3-0 win at Tottenham in August 2014 cemented his popularity among supporters. Moreno scored his first goal at Anfield later that season, netting in a 4-1 win over Swansea City in late December.

Alberto started the 2015/16 season on the bench as newcomer Joe Gomez was handed the left-back slot. However he got back into the side when Gomez injured his knee and he went on to play 50 games in all competitions. He scored his third – and what would prove to be final – goal for the club in a 4-1 home victory over Stoke City in April 2016.

The defender had a tough night against former club Sevilla in the Europa League final in Basel and again found himself on

the bench at the start of the 2016/17 season. With Jürgen Klopp preferring James Milner in the left-back berth, the no18 made just 18 appearances that season.

While his lack of game-time was naturally frustrating, he remained a popular figure and was particularly close to the club's South American contingent.

Ahead of the 2017/18 campaign, he said: "Sincerely, the atmosphere in the dressing-room is always very good. We are always on the same page, happy, and it's a great dressing-room, superb people and I think that's what will lead to us having a good season, to battle together and I think this season will go well."

With Milner moving back into a midfield role, Alberto was back in favour but when he sustained an ankle injury in the 7-0 Champions League rout of Spartak Moscow at Anfield in December 2017, his place was taken by summer signing Andy Robertson whose outstanding displays saw him usurp Moreno as the left-back of choice.

Robbo's consistently fine form meant that situation continued throughout 2018/19 with Alberto this time restricted to just a handful of outings, the last of which came in the FA Cup third-round defeat at Wolves in January.


That ripper against Spurs at White Hart Lane


Full throttle at Anfield

He was released at the end of his five-year contract but not before he had returned to Spain to help the Reds become European champions.

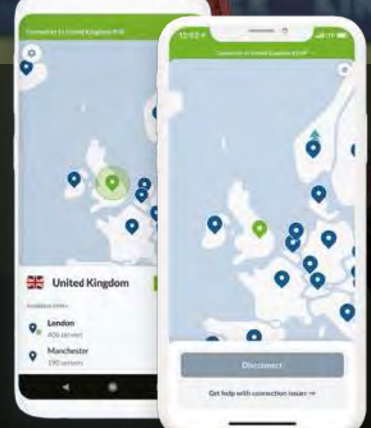
After enjoying the post-match celebrations, he posted on his Instagram account: "Champions of Europe. Dreams come true. Living a dream. What a feeling."

In total the affable defender played 141 times for the Reds, scoring three goals.

Speaking about the departures of Moreno and striker Daniel Sturridge, manager Klopp said: "The most important words to say to these two remarkable players are 'thank you'. Alberto is someone whose personality is reflected in how he plays – full of life, full of energy, always positive. An unbelievable character who is always willing to give all of himself for the team.

"We will miss them of course, but we can say farewell with the best words possible: 'Guys, you leave as European champions'."

First day as a Liverpool player, August 2014



United Kingdom

THAT WAS THE SEASON THAT…

TRENT PLAYED CHESS

During October's international break Trent Alexander-Arnold took on world chess champion Magnus Carlsen and lasted 17 moves – that's eight more than Bill Gates in 2014. The 20-year-old also showed some smart thinking on the football pitch, not least when he took that corner for Liverpool's fourth against Barcelona at Anfield!





LEBRON WORE THE LIVER BIRD

Basketball superstar Lebron James appeared in a Shankly Track Jacket on his Twitter account to speak about his pride in opening a new school in his home state of Ohio. Back in 2011 he'd received a minority stake in Liverpool FC and visited Anfield that same year.

YOUNG REDS WERE PHOTO-BOMBED!

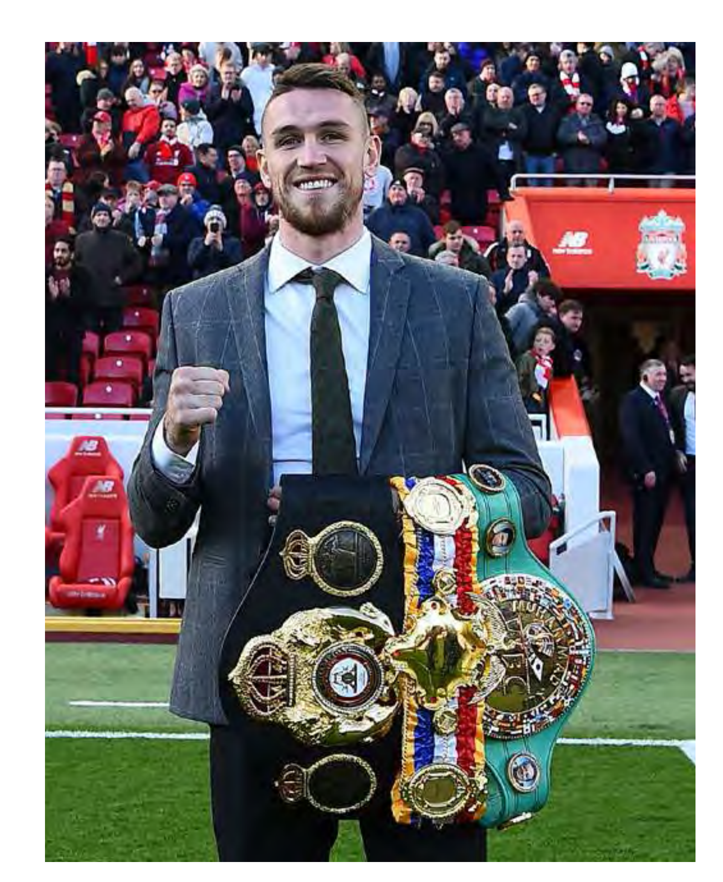
Trent Alexander-Arnold, Roberto Firmino and Virgil van Dijk surprised a group of local schoolchildren who'd been invited to try out the new special Liverpool FC edition of PES 2019 on PlayStation 4 then talk about it on camera for LFCTV – little did they know, the three virtual heroes they'd been playing were waiting in the wings to meet them for real.





MILLY LOOKED SILLY

After his early-season eye-injury, Bobby Firmino wore protective goggles during a training session and the spectacle (ahem) made quite an impression upon team-mates. So much so, James Milner posted his own new look on Instagram, with the caption: "When you're such a big Bobby fan [that] you're rocking these at home #SuperBobby #Whataplayer #BeingBobbyisfun."



CALLUM BROUGHT THE BELT HOME

Super-middleweight boxing world champion Callum Smith was introduced at half-time during the Cardiff City match after his sensational World Boxing Super Series win over George Groves. Who knows, maybe he'll be fighting at Anfield one day…

KING JOHN WAS HONOURED

A bronze bust of LFC founding father John Houlding, depicted in his mayoral finery, was unveiled on 96 Avenue near to the *Anfield Forever* stones. The monument stands just under seven feet tall and had been created by Tom Murphy, the local sculptor behind the world-famous Bill Shankly statue outside the Kop, as part of the club's 125th anniversary celebrations.



KENNY WAS KNIGHTED

Arise Sir Kenny Dalglish! The Reds legend was officially knighted in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, receiving the honour from Prince Charles after it had been announced last June that his remarkable contributions both on and off the football pitch were to be recognised. His reaction: "Humbling but hugely proud."

JÜRGEN WENT UP THE WALL



The Klopp street-art in the city's Baltic Triangle became the latest place to take a Scouse selfie after graffiti artist Akse created the mural of the Reds boss over a two-day period, on Jordan Street off Jamaica Street – a fitting location in an area known for its street art and a hub for lively football screenings.

REDS WERE IN THE RUNNING

Club chief-executive Peter Moore and Liverpool FC legend Alan Kennedy were among the 7,000 who took part in the 15th annual BTR Liverpool Santa Dash on Merseyside derby day, Sunday 2 December 2018.





ALDER HEY BLEW AWAY THE PLAYERS

The first-team squad made is annual Christmas visit to Alder Hey Children's Hospital. Skipper Jordan Henderson wrote in his subsequent matchday programme notes: "The appreciation for Alder Hey is something all of our players want to get across, so on behalf of the entire Liverpool first-team squad I would like to thank everyone at the hospital for allowing us the opportunity to visit and spend time with the incredible people who make it world-class."

THESE TWO WENT: YAAAARRRRSSSSS!!!

LFCTV commentating duo John Aldridge and Steve Hunter gave it bifters when the goals went in against Manchester United at Anfield – their double-act antics became a regular favourite for LFCTV GO subscribers.





ALISSON JAMMED WITH JAMIE

LFCTV was on hand when the Reds goalie swapped his gloves for a guitar to jam with Scouse musician Jamie Webster, star of the BOSS Night sessions, at District in the Baltic Triangle. They played *Allez Allez Allez* and the *Si Senor* tribute to Bobby Firmino.

BOB'S 100TH WAS TOASTED

There was a special issue of the matchday programme for the fixture with Crystal Palace at Anfield on 19 January 2019 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Bob Paisley's birth. Ahead of kick-off there was a mosaic on the Kop with the words 'PAISLEY 100' then a period of applause to pay respects to both Bob and the late, great Peter Thompson, the winger and Bill Shankly boy who had recently passed away. A brilliant animation *Bob Paisley: Humble Genius* was also created to tell his story on the club website and LFCTV.



LFC FOUNDATION HAD ITS DAY!

The club's official charity hosted a series of events to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of its *Respect 4 All* programme. It culminated in the annual LFC Foundation Day, coinciding with the Premier League fixture against Watford at Anfield, to highlight the work of the Foundation as it strives to make a real difference to the lives of children and young people.



STEVIE SCORED IN RED – AGAIN

Sunshine and superstars were the order of the day as ex-players of Liverpool and AC Milan turned it on again in the LFC Foundation Charity Match. A full house at Anfield saw Steven Gerrard fire the late winner in a 3-2 victory, and it all raised £1million for some great causes.

SAMI GOT MOBBED IN MUNICH

LFC legend Sami Hyypia was spotted among the travelling Kopites after the second-leg victory over Bayern in the Champions League round of 16 and hugged it out with adoring fans!





RYAN REFUSED TO CELEBRATE

Former Reds winger Ryan Babel – complete with red head – kept it low-key when he equalised for Fulham against Liverpool at Craven Cottage. Respect.

HARRY WAS OUR COVER STAR

The cover of the LFC matchday programme for the visit of Tottenham was created by young Reds fan Harry Lovett – his outstanding design was the winner of a competition exclusively for young LFC Official Members.



HILLSBOROUGH WAS REMEMBERED

At the Chelsea game on 14 April the club paid tribute to those who lost their lives at Hillsborough thirty years ago, on 15 April 1989. Before kick-off there was a minute's silence and fans in both the Kop and the Sir Kenny Dalglish Stand revealed special '96' and '30 years' mosaics as both teams wore black armbands as a mark of respect.



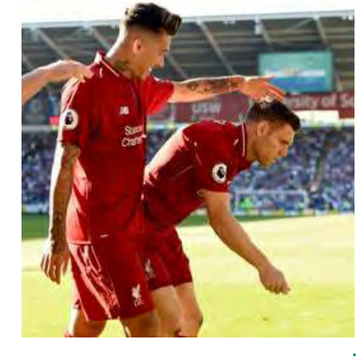


REDS AND GREENS SUPPORTED SEAN

Two stellar teams took to the pitch at Dublin's Aviva Stadium in support of the Sean Cox Rehabilitation Trust, and it was an LFC Legends XI that just edged past their Republic of Ireland counterparts, 2-1.

THE OLD MAN GOT HIS OWN BACK

Team-mate Virgil had been winding him up for a while about his age – a piffling 33 – so when substitute and 'veteran' James Milner coolly converted his crucial penalty at Cardiff City, he celebrated with an imaginary walking-stick!





WE SAID GOODBYE TO TOMMY

Before kick-off against Huddersfield Town there was a moment to pause and reflect upon one of Liverpool FC's greatest servants: a minute's silence for Tommy Smith, ahead of the players wearing black armbands for the 90 minutes.

KLOPP PUMPED THE KOP

It became a ritual as the season progressed: the main man striding towards the Spion Kop at the final whistle with that rousing salute. The TV cameras got wise and so did the boss, kidding them at the end of the Huddersfield game before firing away a few fist-pumps when they weren't looking.

DANIEL WAS THE LATEST TO DONATE

Striker Daniel Sturridge followed in the footsteps of several other Reds first-teamers when he went down to the North Liverpool Foodbank in Clubmoor to make a donation alongside the club's Red Neighbours team. The centre continues to provide emergency food-parcels for local families living in food-poverty.



JB COULDN'T CONTAIN HIS JOY

John Barnes celebrated sensationally in the TV studio when Divock Origi scored that late winner at Newcastle – a Reds legend and a massive Liverpool fan too.

UNITY WAS STRENGTH

The show of solidarity at the end of the Barca second leg summed up everything about Liverpool FC, its players, coaching team and supporters this season.

In his subsequent matchday programme notes for the Wolves game Jürgen Klopp wrote: "I was asked in the post-match press-conference if Liverpool could have won the tie if we played in a stadium without any supporters. My answer was 'no chance' but it made me reflect on how blessed those of us who work here are... This is Liverpool now: a powerful collective who looks to live in the moment and embrace the joy of it. Thank you Anfield – you are special."





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NA3Y'S GOALS

The Guinean midfield ace found the net three times in April but says he's just as happy setting them up for his team-mates

When you look down Liverpool's appearances list for season 2018/19 there are a number of things that catch the eye.

For starters, Alisson, Virgil van Dijk and Mo Salah were the only players to appear in all 38 of the Reds' Premier League games while our Brazilian goalkeeper and Sadio Mane were the only members of Jürgen Klopp's squad to feature in every Champions League game en route to Madrid.

One of the most telling statistics, however, is that of the top

appearance-makers in all competitions – Salah, Alisson, Van Dijk, Mane, Andy Robertson and Roberto Firmino – none of them are midfielders. There are a variety of conclusions you can draw from that.

Klopp doesn't have a first-choice midfield. Competition for places is stronger in midfield than anywhere else. The amount of work the midfielders must do means they need to be rotated or rested more often. The manager picks certain midfielders and midfield systems for different games.

Truth be told, a combination of all those factors are in play, which is why the Liverpool manager spent last summer's transfer-window ensuring he had a variety of very different midfielders at his disposal following the 2018 departures of Philippe Coutinho and Emre Can.

Jordan Henderson. James Milner. Gini Wijnaldum. Fabinho. Naby Keita. Xherdan Shaqiri. Adam Lallana. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. Curtis Jones. That's nine players for three positions in Klopp's most regularly used 4-3-3 system, and Trent Alexander-Arnold can play there too.

It means that, when assessing Keita's first season as a Liverpool player, you have to take into account the bigger picture. Irrespective of the transfer fee that was paid for him – or for any of his midfield team-mates, for that matter – the 24-year-old wasn't signed to be a 50-games-a-season starter because that is not how Klopp uses any of his midfielders.

The Liverpool manager prefers to have a pool of talent that he can use in different ways to give him solutions against different opponents and that is reflected in the fact that six of his midfielders – Wijnaldum, Milner, Henderson, Fabinho, Keita and Shaqiri – all made over 30 appearances for the Reds in season 2018/19, yet none of them were guaranteed starters.

Naby knew this before he arrived at Anfield in the summer of 2018 after his protracted move from RB Leipzig, where he remained for a final season after Liverpool agreed a deal to sign him in 2017, was finally completed.

A couple of injuries, notably a hamstring strain suffered playing for Guinea in October and the groin injury that forced him off in the Champions League semi-final first leg away to Barcelona, also meant he wasn't available for every game. But when he is fit he naturally wants to play. That doesn't mean he doesn't respect the manager's decision, though.



I REALLY ENJOYED THAT MOMENT AGAINST PORTO, IT FELT GREAT TO SCORE MY FIRST GOAL AT ANFIELD

"Everyone wants to play," he tells us through the help of an interpreter. "Nobody wants to be warming the bench, but I respect the manager's choice. Obviously I always want to play, but at the end of the day it is down to the manager.

"My response to not playing is to literally work harder on the training field, to get my head down and work. I want to help the rest of the team by playing and I want to give the manager a difficult decision to leave me out.

"I am always ready for the team and like I said I always respect the choice of the manager. But I do feel more integrated now, I do feel more part of things. That is all down to my team-mates who have helped me to get to this position."

Of course when a high-profile signing doesn't play in every game people start to ask questions and speculate – something that will always be a part of top-level football due to the size of squads required. In February, Klopp was asked about Naby's role in the team."There is still a lot to come because he is still adapting," he replied.





"Sometimes it takes longer, that's how it is. People lose patience, that's normal – but we don't. For a young boy, he made a big move from Leipzig to Liverpool. He wants to do it right."

The fact that Keita, a goal-getting midfielder, hadn't found the net in a red shirt by that stage of the season was part of the issue, with critics pointing to his lack of goals as a sign of underperforming. But that all changed in the space of five days in April.

With Liverpool 1-0 down in a must-win Premier League game at Southampton, Keita's deflected header, from Alexander-Arnold's cross, gave Liverpool an equaliser before Salah and Henderson scored the goals that clinched all three points.

"Because we were behind in the game my first reaction, when the ball hit the back of the net, was to think: we're back in the game now," he says. "My big desire was for the team to win that game and I think my goal helped to wake us up, to start the comeback and take the three points.

"So I think it was a decisive moment because as soon as we equalised we were more at it, more ready to win the game, and it led to a negative reaction from Southampton because they struggled a bit after that. It was a good moment for me.

"Yes, it was a bit frustrating that I hadn't scored earlier, but the main thing for me this season when I came here was to get minutes on the pitch and games under my belt. My main role is to get other people playing, to help the team to win games. "Everyone loves to score goals but we already have other top goalscorers at the club. My job, first and foremost, is to create chances and help the team to score goals.

"People have said my first goal for Liverpool was a long time coming, and I was very, very happy to get it as it is important to score goals. But, like I said, I have other roles in the team."

Four days later Naby also had his first Anfield goal, opening the scoring in the 2-0 Champions League quarter-final first leg against Porto, who had Iker Casillas in goal. It paved the way for another Liverpool win and was a milestone that he won't forget.

"I really enjoyed that moment against Porto," he says with a smile. "It felt great to score my first goal at Anfield, but more than anything it gave me even more desire to do well and to win that game.

"It was a confidence-boost as well, a big positive for my confidence, but I also think it helped the team in that moment. It gave the team more belief that we could score more goals against Porto and get through the tie. We won 2-0 that night and it proved to be enough for us to take to the second leg."

His third Liverpool goal, against Huddersfield Town, also came in April and set a new club record. The visitors kicked the game off, but quick-as-a-flash Keita tackled Jon Stankovic, received a return pass from Mo Salah and sent a low, angled drive in off the far post to make it 1-0. There were just 15 seconds on the clock, making it the quickest goal ever scored at Anfield in the Premier League.

It was also the 100th goal the Reds had scored in season 2018/19 and while Naby appreciates the need for midfielders to contribute goals for a team to be successful, the interview ends with him pointing out that there are others in the Liverpool team who are pretty good at getting goals themselves.

"The manager always tells us to go forward from midfield, to get a lot of bodies into the box when we attack because it gives us more chance of scoring. It is important to get goals from midfield, but obviously the guys upfront are pretty good at scoring! You've got to be on your toes to get to the ball before they do in front of goal.

"So I think it is important that we add something from midfield and if we can finish off moves that's great – but the strikers are pretty good at doing that themselves!"





THE BOSS ALWAYS TELLS US TO GO FORWARD FROM MIDFIELD, GET BODIES IN THE BOX WHEN WE ATTACK

Words: Chris McLoughlin



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• CREATE A TEAM
• GET THAT TEAM TO WIN

Those are the three great aims of the LFC Academy, says Under-23s coach **Neil Critchley**, as he looks back to last season and ahead to 2019/20





Interview: William Hughes

NEIL, HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS THE 2018/19 SEASON OVERALL?

The marker for any football club's academy should always be around the players progressing, ultimately to the first team or at least getting to Melwood, that's always our main objective and we've had some players who have achieved that this season.

It's obviously subjective because we're always looking at the individuals to improve, which can always be open to opinion and debate, but I think across the board we've had some good improvement from the players this season and if we can get enough of those individuals improving together at the same time, that should benefit the team.

The team as a whole we didn't have a great start in terms of the results but the performances were actually really good – the results just didn't follow them – and we picked up in the second half of the season.

Disappointments were probably not progressing in the two cup competitions. Overall I would say we were pleased, but you always want more.

IN TOTAL YOU USED 44 PLAYERS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON...

There are three aims that we have: improving individuals, trying to create a team, and getting that team to win.

Creating a team can be difficult at times because of the availability of the personnel and the selection from game to game, but that's the nature of the job. We're here to support the first team in whatever way we can. Over the course of the season there have been a lot of changes but that's not something that I'm not used to. It brings its own challenges and keeps it fresh, to be honest.

We've had senior involvement and we've had some of the younger ones pushing up as well and some players returning from injury. That's the under-23 model and that won't change as it's one we believe in.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO ENCOURAGING TO SEE A NUMBER OF PLAYERS SIGNING THEIR FIRST PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTS...

I think that's a reflection of the work that's been done by them. A lot of those players have been at the Academy for a long time so, if you like,

I'm just the end of their journey. A lot of the credit needs to go to their previous coaches and the recruitment team and the work that's been done by the staff all the way through the ages to get them to where they are now.

We're very fortunate with the model that we have in place with Alex [Inglethorpe] at the top and what he promotes. I'm very fortunate that I work with a number of good staff. Those players who have come along on that journey with me have still got things to improve and bits to do yet, but I look forward to helping them at the end of their journey.

A NUMBER OF PLAYERS ALSO MADE THEIR FIRST-TEAM DEBUTS IN THE FA CUP TIE AT WOLVES – CURTIS JONES, RAFA CAMACHO AND KI-JANA HOEVER...

That was a nice moment, but it was only a moment. We want players to be playing in other meaningful games, particularly Premier League games. We want players who are playing regularly for Liverpool – 50 games, 50 starts, 100 starts, playing in a successful Liverpool team.

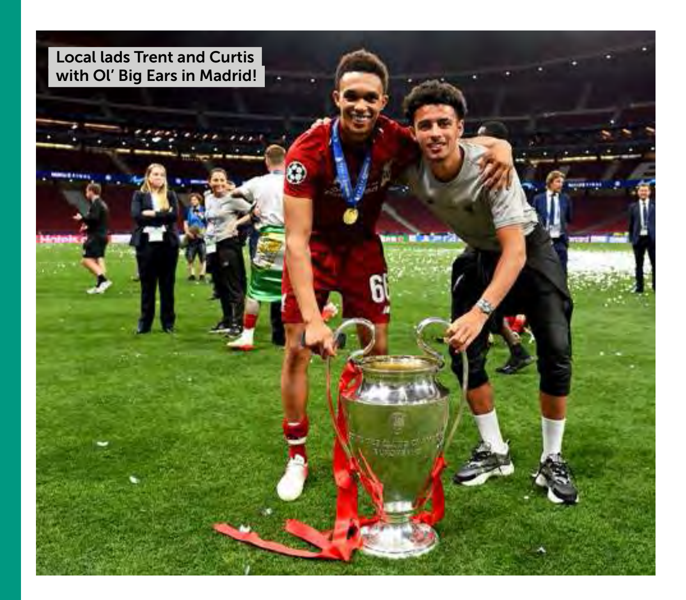
The Wolves game was a great moment for those boys but, as I say, it was only a moment. It gives them a taste but hopefully it makes them hungry for more.



Midfielder Isaac Christie-Davies in action against Blackburn's Under-23s



Defender George Johnston leading out the team in the Anfield mini-derby


Local lads Trent and Curtis with Ol' Big Ears in Madrid!

TRENT ALEXANDER-ARNOLD MUST BE THE ULTIMATE ROLE-MODEL FOR THE BOYS...

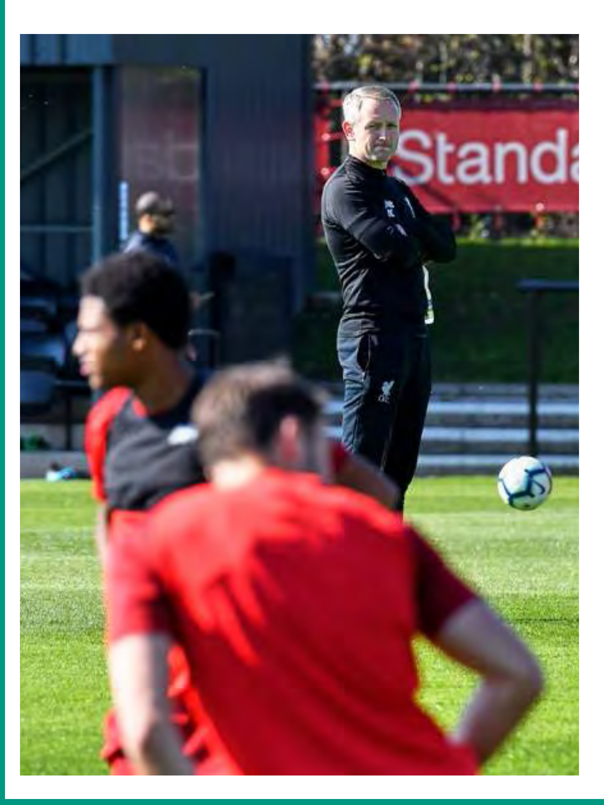
He's a great role-model for our players at the Academy even though he's so young. He's achieved so much already in such a short space of time.

He's obviously had the opportunity of playing in two Champions League finals now, he's been to the World Cup and the way he conducts himself means he's a good role-model. He's the marker. He's set the benchmark for all the players at the Academy to follow.

SEEING A NUMBER OF THE BOYS INVOLVED AT MELWOOD AHEAD OF THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL WAS ANOTHER GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR THEM...

We had quite a few players around it in the build-up to the game, away on the training camp in Marbella and training in the week leading up to the game. That's invaluable for their experience but only if they learn from it.

They were not there as tourists, they were not there just to make the numbers up – they have to take something from it and so I hope that they were walking round with their eyes and their ears open because they need to learn off the people who were around them.



AS A GROUP YOU WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH ACADEMY DIRECTOR ALEX INGLETHORPE AND UNDER-18S COACH BARRY LEWTAS...

Yes, we sit right across the table from each other in the same office so we get a chance to discuss football and individual players on a daily basis.

Alex is obviously a huge part of that. Barry has been at the Academy for roughly the same time as I have and the 18s have done extremely well this season with the support of [performance analyst] Scott [Mason] and all the staff.

I look forward to continuing that journey with some of those players next season. Most of them have already had a taste of Under-23s football – some last season as well as the season before – and I'm really looking forward to continuing the good work that's been going on with those players.

WHEN DO YOU SIT DOWN TO FORMULATE NEXT SEASON'S SQUAD?

That's an ongoing thing throughout the season, really. You're always looking at the next one or the next ones to move up.

We've always got to make sure that the pathway is clear for our players. We are all well-aware that some of the players that we had last season were coming to the end of their time at the club, which is a difficult time, especially when some of them have been at the club for so long.

But you've always got your mind on what's coming and the players should, too. They're always looking up but the ones behind them will always be looking up at them as well, so they need to look both up and down!

It's an ongoing process and I'm very fortunate that we're able to have those open conversations on a daily basis.

A NUMBER OF PLAYERS ENJOYED GOOD SEASONS OUT ON LOAN, TOO...

Yes and we certainly didn't forget about them. Just because they were out of sight on a daily basis we still class them as our players – they are part of 'us' and we've had several players who have done very well. Ryan Kent's had a fantastic season [with Rangers]. Harry Wilson's had a fantastic season [with Derby County].

Ovie Ejaria had a good end to the season playing at Reading. Herbie Kane had a terrific first loan at Doncaster and Liam Millar had a good end to the season at Kilmarnock, getting his first taste of senior football. So I think we've had some good successes with our loan players.

We get well-supported from [loan manager] Julian Ward and again we get out to watch the players and speak to the players as much as we can because there's not one single pathway to the first team – there are different ways of doing it.

I'm sure when those players report back for pre-season they'll be wanting to get in front of the manager and make a statement.


Midfielder Abdi Sharif on target against Chelsea in a PL2 match at Kirkby


Established stars and younger members of the first-team squad listen to Jürgen Klopp at the Marbella training camp

A NUMBER OF THOSE PLAYERS ALSO WON DIVISIONAL OR CLUB HONOURS, TOO, WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN PLEASING...

Yes, and some of those players are on either their first loans or had two, three, four loans and I think you've only got to look at England's senior team now to see how many players who started their careers with loan exposure, and some had numerous loan experiences.

We talk about having 'psychological stamina' in football. It can be tough because it's not always going to be on an upward curve and some of our players who have been out on loan have experienced that, but they need to know that we're here to support them. When it's going well, great. But we're also here for them when it's not going so well.

FINALLY, THE BUILDING WORK FOR THE FIRST-TEAM COMPLEX AT KIRKBY CONTINUES APACE. YOU MUST BE VERY EXCITED BY THE PROSPECT OF ALL WORKING ON ONE SITE?

Time flies, doesn't it? The building seems to be getting closer to completion every single day. We're obviously looking forward to that and I think it will be a big moment for the club as a whole, not just the Under-23s but it will allow us to work closer with the first team.

However, I've got to say – and I think this goes for every first team and academy in the country – that you can be working closer together geographically but the relationship can still be further apart. We're very fortunate that even though we're on separate sites the communication and the relationship is extremely close and open. It's about the people that go in the building and we're very fortunate in that respect at the moment.

With the manager and the staff that we have in place at the first team, we have a chance of giving our players an opportunity whether we're on separate sites or together. But it will help when we're together and we're all looking forward to that day.

Premier League 2 Table 2018/19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Everton	22	12	5	5	31	14	17	41
Arsenal	22	10	7	5	48	36	12	37
Brighton	22	9	7	6	37	27	10	35
Liverpool	22	9	7	6	38	37	11	34
Blackburn	22	9	4	9	38	37	1	31
Chelsea	22	9	4	9	34	33	1	31
Derby C	22	9	3	10	29	34	-5	30
Man City	22	9	3	10	38	48	-10	30
Tottenham	22	7	3	8	26	38	-12	28
Leicester	22	8	3	11	24	33	-9	27
West Ham	22	8	2	12	41	43	-2	26
Swansea	22	3	7	12	28	42	-14	16

U23s appearances and goals

(44 players used overall; most appearances George Johnston 30; most goals Rafa Camacho 9)

	Lge apps	Lge goals	Overall apps	Overall goals
Kamil Grabara	6	0	8	0
Neco Williams	8	0	11 (1)	0
Adam Lewis	21	0	25 (2)	0
Corey Whelan	8 (1)	0	11 (1)	0
George Johnston	22	2	30	2
Pedro Chirivella	15	1	21	1
Bobby Adekanye	8 (1)	1	9 (1)	1
Isaac Christie-Davies	15 (3)	2	21 (4)	2
Glen McAuley	5 (11)	0	12 (12)	4
Matty Virtue	10	6	13	7
Sheyi Ojo	1	0	1	0
Liam Millar	8 (5)	3	11 (8)	4
Caoimhin Kelleher	11	0	13	0
Nat Phillips	7	1	7	1
Curtis Jones	13	4	15	4
Liam Coyle	8 (3)	1	13 (5)	1
Tony Gallacher	2 (7)	0	3 (8)	0
Rafa Camacho	14	8	16	9
Juanma	10 (2)	0	16 (3)	0
Kai McKenzie-Lyle	2	0	2	0
Nathaniel Clyne	1	0	1	0
Divock Origi	1	1	1	1
Dominic Solanke	2	2	2	2
Lazar Markovic	2	1	6	2
Shamal George	3	0	8	0
Fidel O'Rourke	0	0	0 (1)	0
Ben Woodburn	7	2	8	2
Conor Masterson	6 (4)	0	12 (4)	0
Yasser Larouci	1 (1)	0	5 (1)	1
Ki-Jana Hoever	8	0	11	0
Rhys Williams	0 (2)	0	3 (3)	0
Elijah Dixon-Bonner	0	0	1	0
Luis Longstaff	0 (1)	0	1 (2)	0
Abdi Sharif	2 (1)	1	5 (2)	1
Bobby Duncan	1 (2)	0	2 (5)	0
Jake Cain	0	0	0 (2)	0
Matteo Ritaccio	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
Connor Randall	7	0	10	0
Niall Brookwell	0	0	0 (1)	0
Paul Glatzel	2	1	2 (2)	2
Alex Ox-Chamberlain	2	0	2	0
Jack Bearne	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
Joe Gomez	1	0	1	0
Rhian Brewster	2	1	2	1



"FROM 1 JULY WE'LL BE RECHARGED, REFRESHED AND READY TO GO"

Barry Lewtas on his first, trophy-winning season as Liverpool FC's Under-18s coach and the challenges ahead

Interview: William Hughes



LAST SEASON WAS A SUPERB CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNDER-18S – HOW DO YOU REFLECT ON IT OVERALL?

The beauty of having a bit of time off in the summer is to have a chance to sit down and reflect on what was a really busy season. But sometimes when things are busy it means you're playing well and progressing in competitions.

The boys did ever so well in the league to amass the amount of points they did (51 from a possible 66). Then the FA Youth Cup run was something that will live long in the memory for both the staff and more importantly the boys.

I really enjoyed it. It's been really good to see the boys grow and develop as players but also as people. I've known some of them a long time, since they were in their first year here, so to see them now as young men of 17 or 18 and observe how they have developed as people has been great. I've been privileged to have been on that journey this year.

IN MANY WAYS THE SEASON MIRRORED THE FIRST TEAM – COMING SO CLOSE IN THE LEAGUE BUT WITH A NICE SHINY CUP TO ADD TO THE HONOURS LIST?

Definitely. A lot of the messages that we spoke about from game-to-game, especially during the run-in, were in terms of competing on all fronts. It can be difficult in terms of maintaining the levels of training and playing the game that we want to play, while performing under a little bit of pressure as well. So it was fantastic to get over the line in such a prestigious competition as the FA Youth Cup.

We were disappointed to miss out in the league and I suppose it's a cruel way to do so on goal-difference. But when we sat back and reflect, we're really proud. All credit to Derby County who pipped us. We thought we did well but they did that little bit better.

WHICH HIGHLIGHTS REALLY STAND OUT?

When we reflect on things and start planning for next season, a lot of things will come back to us: the things that we did day-to-day in training, the journeys that we made in the UEFA Youth League, the trip to Dallas for a tough tournament, and obviously the run in the FA Youth Cup.

Each game had its own little story and subsequent memory. It's just been one of those seasons which has been really enjoyable, and that was made possible by the attitude and commitment of the boys.

They trained ever so well every day. I can't think of a period where they were 'off it' or where I felt like I had to pick them up. Even after setbacks and disappointments, they were straight back at it in training.

That's what made the journey so enjoyable – being with a group of boys prepared to work hard day in, day out. They reaped the rewards for that in terms of their performances at the weekend.

LOSING ON PENALTIES AWAY TO DINAMO ZAGREB IN THE LAST 16 OF THE UEFA YOUTH LEAGUE WAS OBVIOUSLY TOUGH BUT WOULD THE BOYS HAVE LEARNT MORE FROM THAT EXPERIENCE?

I think so. For a start it was a special competition to be involved in. With the group-stage format, it meant the games kept coming regularly in the first half of the season and at that point we were still in three other competitions too. It was special and prestigious and all the boys wanted to be involved.

There was a good mixture between the two age-groups as well: boys who have done really well for Critch [in the U23s] who could be involved and a few of the boys who have been training up at Melwood. It was a good experience to combine boys from within that age-range, to train together, travel together and play together.

It was obviously disappointing to go out in the manner that we did on penalties but then we tasted both sides of that this season. Penalties are a horrible way to go out but they can be a special way to win. Seeing both sides will help the boys' development.



WITH THE FIRST TEAM NOW ACHIEVING REGULAR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUALIFICATION, YOU CAN ALSO PLAN FOR REGULAR UEFA YOUTH LEAGUE FOOTBALL...

It's great that we qualify because it's a huge part of the players' development in terms of being involved in a European campaign. As the season progressed, we did talk about qualifying for next season's tournament in our own right. To do that we would have had to win our league and then the play-off final [to qualify via the 'domestic champions' path] but that was a real focus in terms of being independent.

Obviously we're fortunate we've got a first team who are riding high at the moment and playing extremely well. Their qualification grants us qualification too, but I would say that last season we gave it a good go to get there in our own right.

We will be really excited to be involved in it again next year because the experience the boys and the staff get is invaluable. When I think back on some of those games, especially Paris Saint-Germain away [a 3-2 defeat], there were some unbelievable fixtures. We came out second-best in terms of the result but it was fantastic from a coaching point-of-view and for the players' development.

The more games we can all be involved in like that – hopefully with better outcomes – the better it is for all our development.

ANOTHER WAY IN WHICH THE SEASON HAD PARALLELS WITH THE FIRST TEAM WAS THE NUMBER OF LATE GOALS...

I certainly don't think it was a coincidence. Every team we played will have trained hard but I know how hard our boys trained – not just from a physical point-of-view but also in regards of mentality, concentration and focus.

We try to keep that as an integral part of each session and I like to think we've formed a strong identity in terms of the way we want to play. We believe that we're comfortable out of possession and understand that we're only a moment from winning the ball back and attacking, which always gives you encouragement even when the other team has possession or the game is close. The players that we have and the style that we play with, meant that we always felt that we could create chances even if that was in the last five minutes.

The players' mentality is key. As coaches we can't be out there on the pitch in the last five minutes, so it's down to them. There is a physical element, a mental element and, as a team, an identity around how we want to play which helped us score those late goals.

I would also say that once you start doing it a couple of times, the players probably start getting a bit more belief as well. You win a few games late-on, you remind the boys that they've done it and that takes them into the next moment in the next game. That has probably been a standout trait of what we're about.

IN THE FINAL LEAGUE GAME WHEN THE TEAM NEEDED TO SCORE TEN AGAINST MIDDLESBROUGH TO WIN THE TITLE, IT WAS GOALLESS WITH FIVE MINUTES TO GO BUT YOU STILL DUG OUT THE VICTORY...

We knew we needed to score ten but we were never disrespectful to Middlesbrough. We had to prepare and play in a way that was really on the front-foot and show that we wanted to score goals and not give up.

We missed a number of chances in the first half, which happens and no-one was to blame. But then I knew that at half-time to sit there and say "Come on, we need ten goals in the second half" would have been unrealistic because it was a close match and Middlesbrough are a good team.

To pick the boys up we had to say: "We need to win the game and finish the season strong." The minimum was always that we would

Midfield man Elijah Dixon-Bonner on the ball


Striker Bobby Duncan bursts past two Middlesbrough players


Fellow forward Paul Glatzel in action

lose the league on goal-difference. For the boys to go out and go again showed an awful lot of character. Yet again we put the ball in the box late-on and scored another goal. I was proud of the boys in that moment and thought the way they dealt with it after the game was very good. They were clearly disappointed but represented themselves and the club really well.

BACK TO THE FA YOUTH CUP – YOU DIDN'T WATCH THE PENALTY SHOOT-OUT?

I don't tend to watch them in any game, to be honest! As a coach you often don't think about the fact that you've gone out, rather that you're trying to pick the boys back up and especially individuals who have missed, so I'm often nervous for them.

It was just one of those situations in that particular moment, especially with all the interest in the FA Youth Cup and the amount of people there. I think people cottoned on that I didn't watch, so I'll have to carry it on now, won't I?!

WINNING A ONE-OFF GAME ON YOUR OPPONENT'S GROUND MUST HAVE MADE IT EXTRA SPECIAL...

Certainly, but the whole event was unbelievably well-organised and that was credit to the opposition. Any away game is tough, so we knew that in a final, to go away from home we'd really have to be at it. With a tough start where the opposition played fantastically well, to come out and play the way we did in the second half was testament to the boys. When you go on to someone else's patch and win it, it makes it even more special.

Under-18s Premier League North Table 2018/19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Derby C	22	16	3	3	63	27	36	51
Liverpool	22	16	3	3	59	32	27	51
Everton	22	14	2	6	65	34	31	44
Man United	22	12	7	3	60	39	21	43
Middlesbro	22	11	2	9	52	48	4	35
Stoke City	22	10	2	10	42	39	-3	32
Blackburn	22	9	3	10	48	49	-1	30
Man City	22	7	8	7	46	34	12	29
West Brom	22	4	6	12	44	62	-18	18
Wolves	22	4	2	16	22	47	-25	14
Newcastle	22	3	5	14	17	62	-45	14
Sunderland	22	1	7	14	20	65	-45	10

Under 18s appearances and goals

(32 players used; most appearances Bobby Duncan 37; most goals Bobby Duncan 30)

	Lge apps	Lge goals	Overall apps	Overall goals
Ben Williams	2	0	3	0
Jack Walls	8 (2)	1	15 (2)	1
Yasser Larouci	17 (1)	1	26 (3)	1
Rhys Williams	19	2	34	3
Tom Clayton	8 (1)	1	14 (1)	2
Matteo Ritaccio	9 (9)	0	11 (11)	0
Abdi Sharif	9 (5)	1	17 (5)	2
Jake Cain	16	2	29 (1)	3
Paul Glatzel	14 (1)	11	28 (3)	26
Bobby Duncan	20	18	33 (4)	30
Edvard Tagseth	3 (4)	1	6 (6)	1
Elijah Dixon-Bonner	13 (7)	3	19 (12)	4
Leighton Clarkson	17 (4)	4	28 (8)	4
Luis Longstaff	14 (5)	2	19 (12)	2
Vitezslav Jaros	14	0	29	0
Neco Williams	12	0	22 (1)	0
Fidel O'Rourke	9 (9)	7	12 (12)	7
Niall Brookwell	3 (3)	0	4 (3)	0
Daniel Atherton	6	0	6 (1)	0
Ki-Jana Hoever	4 (1)	0	7 (3)	0
Jack Bearne	6 (8)	3	7 (13)	3
Adam Lewis	0	0	7	1
Liam Coyle	0	0	6	0
Bobby Adekanye	0	0	4	2
Curtis Jones	0	0	6	3
Rafa Camacho	0	0	6	3
Remi Savage	6 (1)	0	8 (4)	0
Morgan Boyes	12 (1)	0	20 (2)	0
Liam Millar	0	0	3	3
Patrik Raitenen	1 (2)	0	1 (3)	0
Layton Stewart	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
Luca Ashby-Hammond	0	0	1	0



TO BE ABLE TO PARADE THE CUP AT ANFIELD WAS A NICE WAY TO END THE SEASON, TOO…

The Youth Cup is a prestigious competition. It's shown on the telly and so a lot of our supporters watched it. For the boys to get to go out at Anfield and parade the trophy on the last day of the Premier League season, to a standing ovation, was brilliant and I know they were all really appreciative of it. It adds to that special memory.

A NUMBER OF U18S ALSO SIGNED THEIR FIRST PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTS WITH THE CLUB…

That's really pleasing. As a staff we sit down at the start of the season and our first focus is on what each player is going to need and how we're going to push them onto the next level. For a number of the boys it was about trying to make sure we pushed them in the right direction in terms of earning more time at the club, which is what it's all about.

That individual development has gone hand-in-hand with the results on the pitch. Some of the boys have really stepped up and been rewarded with more time here and they will now get the opportunity to move up to the next age-group and kick on again. That will always be the focus of myself and the U18s staff and obviously for Critch with the U23s as well. He'll want to push his boys to try and maximise their potential.

AS SOON AS ONE SEASON ENDS, THE PLANNING FOR THE NEXT ONE BEGINS…

I'm fortunate in that I've worked in the past with a lot of the boys who are moving up. The U18s and U16s staffs work closely. We had a big squad last year and not as many 16s moved up and played, but I've watched all the games so I know who's coming up and how they've done. We're all on the same page as to where those individuals will need to develop and continue their improvement and I'm sure they're looking forward to picking up the shirt.

As I've always said, the boys who've moved on to the U23s have left the shirt in a good place, and the lads moving up into our squad have to come in and earn their place – pick the shirt up and try to leave it in an even better place for the people who come next. That's the way it works.

It's a new start and a new season. Sometimes people don't realise that it's not necessarily similar to a first team where you may have a good season and pick up where you left off. The U18s will be a new team but what comes with that is excitement from the development point-of-view.

The aim is always, if we think it's right and the timing is right, to try and progress the boys. The aim is always to find the best challenge for them, whether that's with the U18s, the U23s or up at Melwood. For instance, if you look at Ki-Jana Hoever, he played in some of our games and then moved up. I think we'll be a young team this year and with that comes an enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

On 1 July we'll all be recharged, refreshed and ready to go. My hope for this season is similar to the last one in terms of the boys working hard every day and making it a pleasure to come into work. If they can put that onto the pitch and perform the way the team has this year, I'm sure that the results and the progress will come too.

I'm really excited and intrigued about how it's going to go.

Fidel O'Rourke celebrates a goal with team-mates during an U18 Premier League match at the Academy


Elijah Dixon-Bonner
Alex Turner
Yasser Larouci
Leighton Clarkson
Abdi Sharif
Niall Brookwell
Edvard Tagseth
Remi Savage
Owen Beck
Ben Winterbottom
Jake Cain
Matteo Ritaccio
Jack Bearne
Jack Walls

ANFIELD HAILS CUP KINGS

Here are the victorious FA Youth Cup-winning Liverpool Under-18s parading their silverware in front of the Kop at half-time during the senior side's final Premier League game of the 2018/19 season, against Wolves.

Forward Bobby Duncan's late leveller took the final to extra-time and penalties against Manchester City with the Reds coming out on top 5-3 in the spot-kick shootout.

It capped off a fantastic season for Barry Lewtas' side who only lost out on the U18s North title on goal-difference and saw a number of players step up and impress on the European stage in the U19 UEFA Youth League tournament.

Well done lads!





GOAL MACHINE

Courtney Sweetman-Kirk enjoyed a fine first season in a red shirt, scoring ten FA WSL goals and 13 in all competitions, winning the top goalscorer prize at the club's end of season awards. Here she talks us through each one...







GOAL 1

Durham 3 Liverpool 3 (Continental Cup) 16 September 2018: a back-post volley from Niamh Charles's cross, making it three-all with three minutes left.

"This was Vicky Jepson and Chris Kirkland's first game in caretaker charge and I think there was a lot of tension around the match. The girls were just itching to get out and play. I was on the bench and came on.

"I think the goal came from one of their set-pieces. I made a 60-yard run and I just remember trying to get down the pitch as fast as I could. It was a great cross from Niamh and I was just happy to get on the end of it and volley it in. I was knackered to be honest! I was hoping that the cross was coming in or I would have been fuming that I'd ran 60 yards for nothing!

"I then managed to score a penalty in the shoot-out which we won to take a bonus point. New Ferrens Park is never a nice place to play. Fair play to Durham – they know that and make it a fortress. Looking at their results at home this season, they have done very well and a lot of teams have found it very hard to play there."

GOAL 2

West Ham 0 Liverpool 2 (FA WSL)

21 October 2018 West Ham: a back-heel from close-range after an initial header was saved.

"Jess Clarke ran down the right and Niamh Charles's header was well-saved by their goalie Becky Spencer. She also kept out my header from the rebound but I managed to improvise and back-heel it in. I was almost amazed that it didn't go in first time but that's credit to Becks. I know her well and she's a fantastic keeper.

"I remember it coming back down to me and just thinking: I need to get anything I can on this. It was a hot day, so to put it in the back of the net was great.

"I'm a bit of a poacher and so I'm always in and about the box. I knew that if Niamh didn't score and it didn't go in the back of the net that I was going to try and get something on it. It was a case of being in the right place at the right time."



GOAL 3

Bristol City 2 Liverpool 1 (FA WSL) 17 November 2018: a close-range goal at the back-post after Leandra Little had flicked on a Laura Coombs cross from the right.

"This was another goal where it was a case of being in the right place at the right time and trying to make a nuisance of myself. Some people think with strikers that they're a bit lucky with tap-ins, but you find with a lot of them that they are always there at the right time and there's a reason for it.

"I remember looking up and thinking: why's Coombsy on the right?! She put in a great cross and Leandra was making a nuisance of herself and put the defender off and also got a flick. I was just ghosting in at the back-post.

"We'd made a slow start to the game and were two-nil down but I really thought at that point that we were going to go on and get a point or even all three. But in this league you can't start slowly and being two goals down was hard to come back from against a Bristol City side who had a fantastic season."





GOAL 4

Reading 2 Liverpool 2 (FA WSL) 9 December 2018: a spectacular volley from just inside the box from Kirsty Linnett's cross from the right-hand side.

"This was probably one of my better ones and it also won the FA WSL's goal of the week [and the BBC's Women's Goal of the Season]. I was happy about that but when you're scoring goals you've also got to look at the service and it was a fantastic ball in from Kirsty. When you watch the replay back, she looked up and looked for me so all credit to Kirsty.

"To be honest I was just trying to get a good connection on it. It wasn't the laces, it was purposefully side-footed to try and get something on it. It was slightly behind me too so I had to make a bit of a jump for it, but I can be quite acrobatic and I'm quite flexible. I must admit that was the one that I enjoyed most this season."



GOAL 5

Reading 2 Liverpool 2 (FA WSL) 9 December 2018: a close-range header from Jess Clarke's cross from the right.

"As a striker you've always got to be there. Jess is fast so I was trying to make sure I was keeping up with her and managing to get in the box. Up until her injury Jess and I had a good connection and we were having a good season as a combination, so I must admit I missed having her on the pitch after she was injured in the new year.

"Again it was a great cross and I was just trying to make sure that I was in those areas. As a new team I think we were still learning at that point how everyone worked with each other. Luckily I've played with Jess for a few years so I think she knows that if she gets the ball in the box, nine times out of ten I'm going to be there trying to get it in the back of the net. It's nice to have that relationship with Jess."

GOAL 6

Reading 3 Liverpool 3 (Continental Cup) 9 December 2018: a neat lob over ex-Reds keeper Rachael Laws as Liverpool picked up another bonus-point win after a penalty shoot-out.



"I remember looking up and thinking: why has she come out? I'm not a keeper so I don't know, but on this occasion Rachael almost made my decision for me. If she had stayed back I still had pressure on my back from a defender. When I saw her rushing out I thought: well, it's got to go over her. It was quite a nice technical goal and it was an important one in terms of our cup run at that point and again we won the penalty shoot-out."

GOAL 7

Yeovil Town 1 Liverpool 2 (FA WSL) 13 January 2019: a penalty after Yana Daniels had been fouled by goalkeeper Megan Walsh.

"I remember last season when I was playing for Everton and we were doing some prep on Bristol City and we were saying about Yana being a tricky customer and not to foul her. She's won us a couple of penalties this season with her skills and we're happy about that.

"I was just very confident. I practise a lot of shooting and penalties and sometimes when I'm practising in training its not actually about the penalty – it's just about that feeling of striking the ball and getting it in the back of the net. So when I stepped up to take it I was really confident to be honest.

"I know Meg Walsh is a great keeper, but I think as long as you get penalties in the right areas you don't give the keeper a chance."



GOAL 8

Yeovil Town 1 Liverpool 2 (FA WSL) 13 January 2019: an overhead kick late-on to seal victory and a league double against the Glovers.

"It was a bit of a melee in the box. I think Leandra was in there



causing problems and Jess as well. Sometimes you've just got to get something on it and I don't really know where it came from, to be honest! I remember it being slightly behind me so I just had to try and flip my body and get an overhead-kick away. To get something on it and see it go in was brilliant.

"Last-minute winners are always a great feeling even when they come off your face, so to do it with an overhead-kick was obviously fantastic. Looking over to the bench and running over to celebrate with them, knowing we had the three points, was great."

GOAL 9

Liverpool 1 West Ham 0 (FA WSL) 28 January 2019: a match-winning goal from inside the six-yard box from Laura Coombs' low cross from the right.

"The girls have to take credit for a lot of these goals because unless they are getting those balls into the box, I'm not scoring. The fact that they are creating those chances for me is very pleasing. Like I say, the girls know by now that if you get a decent ball into the box then I'm going to be on the end of it.

"This was a win that we fully deserved. We outplayed them for most of the game and it was a tough Monday-night match underneath the lights, so to come away with the three points was a good feeling.

"I think the win at Yeovil and this one were two games where we really found what we're about."

GOAL 10

Liverpool 6 MK Dons 0 (FA Cup) 10 February 2019: a clever chip from just outside the box after being played in by Christie Murray.

"Christie is someone with whom I've played for a few years and I think we're very much on the same wavelength. I remember when she picked the ball up, I made the run. Talking to her afterwards she said: 'I just knew where you were going to be'.

"When you've got someone as technically gifted as Christie, you know there's always a strong possibility she'll find you. That ball was fantastic. It was in a transition and I don't think the keeper really ran out but I think she was already quite high. I remember looking up and thinking: I'm going to try and lob her here. I hit it with my first touch and it was a really nice technical goal. I'm normally known for my tap-ins but I've had a few nice ones this season!

"My confidence was very high at this point. It's always peaks and troughs as a striker. Sometimes you have those games where you don't score but it's about trying to remain confident and do the right things in training. Christie and I normally stay out after training for 10 to 15 minutes and hit a few balls to ensure that we always have that feeling as well as that repetition and confidence."



GOAL 11

Liverpool 1 Arsenal 5 (FA WSL) 24 March 2019: a penalty after Yana Daniels was fouled by Gunners defender Katrine Veje.

"I put this in the top corner. When you look at Arsenal, they have a very good keeper in Pauline Peyraud-Magnin, and as much as you've always got to hit the right areas I thought I need to hit this area a bit better! It was a nice strike and unfortunate really that it didn't mean anything because we were four down at the time against a strong team who went on to be crowned champions.

"With quite a few of these goals it's not about me scoring but the fact that the goals are leading us to three points or getting us into a nice position. It was a shame that this didn't lead to anything, but in the same breath it was still important as scoring was good for my confidence and also for Yana's as she'd contributed such a lot in earning the penalty."











GOAL 12

Manchester City 2 Liverpool 1 (FA WSL) 31 March 2019: another spot-kick after Niamh Fahey's shot was handled on the line by City skipper Steph Houghton.

"I think I'd had a couple of penalties where I'd gone to the left. I know from the analysis that we do that the keeper might go in that direction too, so I went the other way. It wasn't the cleanest strike but as long as it goes in the back of the net it doesn't matter.

"It was a tight game but we lost 2-1 after conceding in added-time. It was really disappointing as we were so, so close to taking a point off a top team and I think we deserved more. Then in the same breath we didn't defend their late free-kick into the box very well. That's the sort of thing we're looking to address next season as they are the fine margins that we've got to be better at if we want to compete with the Arsenals, Man Citys and Chelseas of this league."

GOAL 13

Liverpool 3 Everton 1 (FA WSL) 11 May 2019: a near-post header from a Christie Murray free-kick to put Liverpool ahead in the final-day Merseyside derby.

"We were determined to beat Everton after losing to them twice earlier in the season – we didn't want it to be three. Derbies are always a massive occasion and I was buzzing with my goal. Christie played in a great free-kick and I managed to get in front of [goalkeeper] Kirstie Levell and head it in.

"We'd been working on set-pieces and were a bit disappointed that we hadn't scored more from them this season. Christie's got a great delivery and there were a couple of other set-plays we scored from in this game, and one or two others where we could've done.

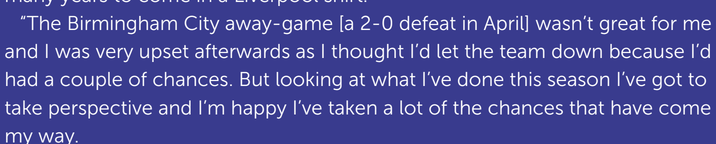
"It's really nice to do the work in training and for it to come off in a game and I think that's great for the staff to see as well. It was a great team-performance in front of a big crowd who were great too. It all came together, we got the win and I was very happy to end the season with a goal and a win."



"I'VE GOT GOOD PLAYERS AROUND ME"

"When I signed for Liverpool last summer I said that I wanted to be the top scorer so I'm pleased that I've done that. It's what I contribute to the team and as a forward that's your job.

"I'm happy on a personal note but also happy the goals have helped the team put points on the board. I just hope to continue to do that for many years to come in a Liverpool shirt.



"The Birmingham City away-game [a 2-0 defeat in April] wasn't great for me and I was very upset afterwards as I thought I'd let the team down because I'd had a couple of chances. But looking at what I've done this season I've got to take perspective and I'm happy I've taken a lot of the chances that have come my way.

"For me it's just about staying clinical and doing that work on the training-ground. When I've got good players around me and they're putting great balls into the box, I've got no excuse. Hopefully that can continue and we can create more chances and score more goals next season."

FA WSL Table 2018/19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Arsenal	20	18	0	2	70	13	57	54
Man City	20	14	5	1	53	17	36	47
Chelsea	20	12	6	2	46	14	32	42
Birmingham	20	13	1	6	29	17	12	40
Reading	20	8	3	9	33	30	3	27
Bristol City	20	7	4	9	17	34	-17	25
West Ham	20	7	2	11	25	37	-12	23
Liverpool	**20**	**7**	**1**	**12**	**21**	**38**	**-17**	**22**
Brighton	20	4	4	12	16	38	-22	16
Everton	20	3	3	14	15	38	-23	12
Yeovil Town	20	2	1	17	11	60	-49	-3

INCOMING!

Full-back Becky and attacker Melissa (below) welcomed to the club by manager Vicky Jepson

Liverpool FC Women make their first signings of the summer

Liverpool FC Women have added quality and experience to their first-team squad ahead of their return for pre-season training on 8 July.

The Reds have made two bold moves in the summer transfer-window with the additions of England international Melissa Lawley from Manchester City and Reading right-back Becky Jane.

The addition of 25-year-old Lawley, who narrowly missed out on England's World Cup squad this summer after making her debut for the Lionesses last November, is something of a coup for the Reds and will add to the team's attacking threat in the final third. She says that the prospect of working with Liverpool manager Vicky Jepson was a major pull.

"The first time I spoke to Vicky she turned my head," explains Lawley, who has also played for Bristol City and Birmingham City.

"The plans and visions that she's got for this club excited me. When I was at City, I was looking at the way Liverpool played against them in a couple of games towards the end of last season and you could see the team were building in confidence. I could see that there was something special there, so as soon as Vicky approached me I was excited.

"She is very much a 'people person', which is what I need at the moment. I need to get my self-confidence back again and hopefully coming into this team, I can start to get Liverpool where we should be – getting the three points that we need on a weekend and hopefully push towards the top of the table."

The winger was not a regular starter at City last season but believes she will now have the platform to showcase her talents with the Reds.

"I'd love to be playing every game but coming into this squad, I know that it's going to be a challenge and there are obviously players fighting for each position.

"But I also know that Vicky's going to bring out the best in me – she's already given me that confidence to believe in myself. That's all I ask from a manager.

"I will stick to what she asks of me each day, try to play my best football and hopefully help the team. I'd say I'm a very attack-minded player. I do love to beat players but my challenge this year is to get more assists and goals in my game too."

Liverpool fans will be licking their lips at the attacking talent the squad now possesses with players such as Melissa and England youth international Niamh Charles hoping to offer a supply-line for last season's leading scorer Courtney Sweetman-Kirk.

Lawley adds: "When I've watched Liverpool, Niamh Charles is a youngster coming through who I've noticed and it's clear that she is a talent. With my experience, I want to help her and push her on going forwards. Hopefully we can fly down those wings and score some goals with Courtney up top."

The keen sense of team spirit that coach Jepson has helped engender among the squad was another factor that made the prospect of joining Liverpool an attractive one.

"I think Vicky has come in and brought that sense of togetherness to the girls. It looks like a happy group and I think that if you have happy players, you get the best out of them.

"When I did my media unveiling I said to Vicky that I couldn't wait for pre-season to start. I've been doing my pre pre-season and I'm just raring to go."

Ultimately, Melissa hopes her form for Liverpool will help her return to the England set-up but she says her first priority is performing well for the Reds.

"If I'm playing consistently in the Liverpool team, hopefully I can get back in the England squad but as for now, my main aim is just Liverpool."

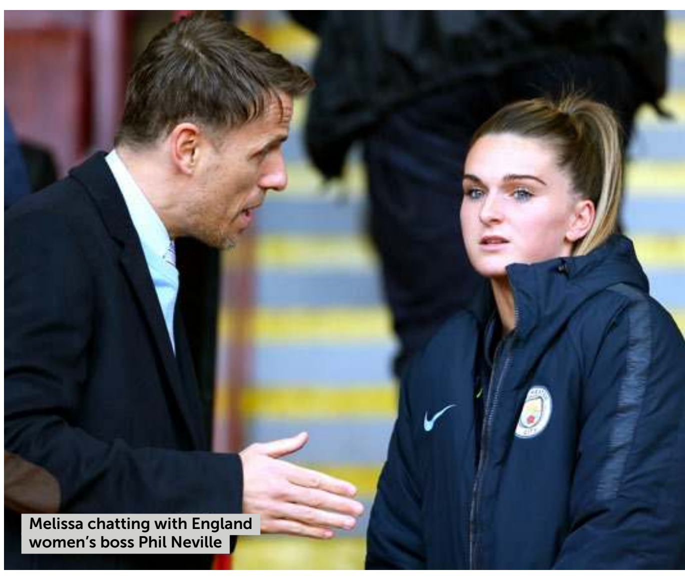
She will wear the no11 shirt vacated by Yana Daniels, who has moved on along with defenders Jasmine Matthews and Leandra Little as well as midfielder Laura Coombs.

Fellow new arrival Becky Jane will wear the no22 jersey. The right-back will add experience and competition for places and is looking forward to a new challenge after spending eight years with Reading FC Women, who the Reds will host in their first FA WSL game of 2019/20 over the weekend of 7/8 September. "Eight years is a really long time and I felt as though I needed a fresh start now," she says. "I haven't been playing regularly recently and so, for me, the first thing was to come and play football as that's my job.

"I haven't been playing consistently in the past couple of years. The first year I was out with a slipped disc for the first half of the season and that set me back and then I couldn't get back in the team. Then last season I wasn't selected regularly so this move was completely what I needed just to get back playing.



Becky playing for Reading against the Reds previously


Melissa chatting with England women's boss Phil Neville

"Vicky seems like the kind of manager that you want to run through brick walls for and that's what I need right now. I need someone to give me confidence, someone to make me feel like I'm a good player again and I'm really excited to get to work."

Becky started her career as a forward before reinventing herself as a right-back about five years ago. She has played with a number of the Liverpool squad before and was at Loughborough University with captain Sophie Bradley-Auckland and winger Jess Clarke, with whom she hopes to form a speedy link-up down the Reds right flank.

"I have been playing at the top level for quite a while now so I like to think that I've learnt a lot and I've built up some experience and that I can take that forward.

"This is the first time for a few years that I've actually been really excited to return for pre-season and get back to working hard and that's a nice feeling to have. It's an exciting time for the club."

Both Melissa and Becky also believe that the success of the men's team can have a positive impact on the women's side.

Becky watched the Champions League final in America where she was enjoying an end-of-season holiday.

"I was in a pub in the middle of Santa Monica in LA," she recalls. "Thankfully the pub was mainly full of Liverpool fans. I think the owner was from Liverpool and it was a really good atmosphere. It was 10.30 in the morning when I walked in there and it was absolutely pumping.

"My brother is a Spurs supporter so he wasn't very happy and he was texting me moaning! It's exciting for the club because if the men do well it's always good for the women too, so it was fantastic to see that knowing I was about to become a Liverpool player."

Melissa adds: "There's a lot of talk around Liverpool Football Club at the moment with the men and I want that to be the case with the women's team as well. Eventually I want us to be in the Champions League too and playing in FA Cup finals and 'Conti' Cup finals.

"That's my challenge coming here to hopefully help us and push this group on."

Words: William Hughes



WHAT DOESN'T



The Reds have conquered all of Europe once again and an essential new book tells the tale with stunning pictures and compelling commentary

Scenes – it's all about the scenes. Anfield absolutely rocking on the night that Barcelona bit the dust. Madrid awash with so much red you could probably see it from space as tens of thousands travelled to the final. And Liverpool loved-up like only Liverpool could, to welcome the triumphant team home with the trophy.

Now the commemorative book that captures it all is available to pre-order: over 320 pages featuring the finest photography on and off the football pitch; a sensational celebration of 'La Sexta' – Liverpool FC's sixth European Cup triumph – alongside commentary from the editorial team behind the club's official matchday programme, round by round on the thrilling road to the final.



KILL YOU...

Awesome though they are, these images from the Nou Camp and Anfield didn't make the cut for CH6MPIONS OF EUROPE – such was the quality of the photos painstakingly curated by the book's creators. Some have already become iconic, many are still unseen, all of them are brought together here.

The words, we hope, match the extraordinary pictures. This short extract is from the book's prologue...

'It had just gone five o'clock on Sunday 12 May 2019 and the Liverpool FC first-team squad and their families, along with the coaching staff, were on the pitch at Anfield in the late-afternoon sunshine, saluting the full house that had stayed behind after the 2-0 over Wolverhampton Wanderers on the final day of the Premier League season.

'Despite accumulating 97 points, a total bettered by only three teams in top-flight history (adjusted to three-points-for-a-win), the Premier League title had eluded Jürgen Klopp's side. It was an agonisingly close way to come second after such a sensational domestic season, but there were no long faces among the players or fans – only smiles and singing and excitement for what lay ahead.

'The Reds had raised the bar in the 2018/19 Premier League. It was the best points-per-game ratio (at 2.55) in the club's top-flight history. Liverpool had gone 20 games without defeat from the beginning of the campaign and were unbeaten at home for a second successive league season.

'They'd been the last team in the top four divisions of English football to lose a league fixture in 2018/19, and they'd lost just once.

'Mo Salah became the quickest player to 50 league goals in LFC history, doing so in 69 fixtures. Alisson won the Premier League Golden Glove for keeping most clean-sheets, with 21. Virgil van Dijk was named the PFA Players' player of the year, a year after Salah had claimed the same accolade. The big Dutchman was joined by Trent Alexander-Arnold, Andy Robertson and Sadio Mane in the PFA team of the year.

'It felt good among the fans too. Anfield recorded a club-record average home league attendance of 53,174 (beating the 53,113 set two seasons earlier) and enjoyed a club-record highest aggregate attendance in a single season of 1,010,316 (beating the 1,010,170 from back in 1972/73).

MAKES YOU

'Unity was most definitely strength, and nowhere was this more evident than when Liverpool were playing in Europe. Four-and-a-bit days before the Wolves win, Anfield had witnessed another epoch-defining comeback as Liverpool beat Barcelona 4-0 in the second leg of their Champions League semi-final.

'In doing so they became only the third team in history to overturn a three-goal first-leg deficit at this stage of the competition and the show of solidarity at the end of the night summed up everything about LFC, its players, coaching team and supporters.

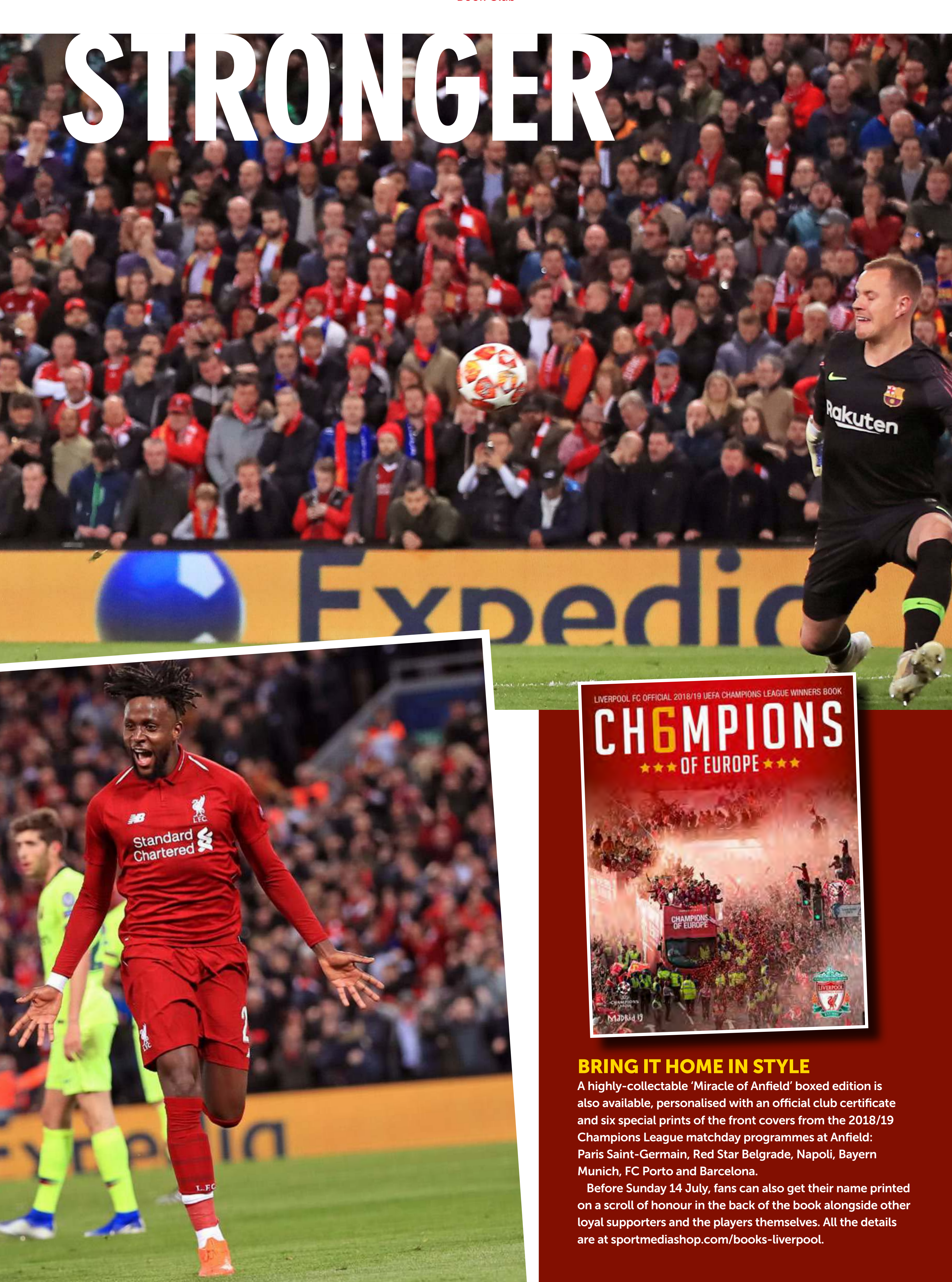
'In his subsequent matchday programme notes (for Wolves) Jürgen Klopp wrote: "I was asked in the post-match press-conference if Liverpool could have won the tie if we played in a stadium without any supporters. My answer was 'no chance' but it made me reflect on how blessed those of us who work here are...

"This is Liverpool now: a powerful collective who looks to live in the moment and embrace the joy of it. Thank you Anfield – you are special."

'It was the season when Klopp fired fist-pumps at a raucous Kop; when we marked the 30th anniversary of Hillsborough, celebrated the 100th anniversary of Bob Paisley's birth and said goodbye to former captain Tommy Smith; when Kenny Dalglish was officially knighted and Reds legends raised money for the LFC Foundation and the Sean Cox Rehabilitation Trust.

'But would it end on a high? After going so close in the league at home, and after the Champions League heartache of Kiev the previous year, would there be a silver lining to the season finale?...'





BRING IT HOME IN STYLE

A highly-collectable 'Miracle of Anfield' boxed edition is also available, personalised with an official club certificate and six special prints of the front covers from the 2018/19 Champions League matchday programmes at Anfield: Paris Saint-Germain, Red Star Belgrade, Napoli, Bayern Munich, FC Porto and Barcelona.

Before Sunday 14 July, fans can also get their name printed on a scroll of honour in the back of the book alongside other loyal supporters and the players themselves. All the details are at sportmediashop.com/books-liverpool.



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**WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
THIS MEANS MORE.**

THANK YOU REDS FANS

Once again supporters show their class as big totals are raised at last season's two charity matches

The club's official charity, LFC Foundation, has announced that the Legends Charity Match held at Anfield in March has raised £800,000. The Foundation extends its sincere thanks to the LFC family who once again showed tremendous support, as a team of Reds legends won 3-2 against their AC Milan guests.

Proceeds raised from the sell-out match will fund LFC Foundation programmes which support children and young people across Merseyside and beyond as well as local charities.

A £36,000 donation was used by the Owen McVeigh Foundation to refurbish a holiday lodge they own in the Lake District, for use by children undergoing treatment for cancer and their families.

Zoe's Place, which provides palliative, respite and end-of-life care to babies and infants suffering from life-limiting or life-threatening conditions, received a £50,000 donation.

A further £100,000 was made available to local charities via the LFC Foundation Community Fund run in association with Radio City's Cash for Kids, while AC Milan's official charity, Fondazione Milan, also received £150,000.

LFC Foundation director Matt Parish says: "I am so proud of the continued support the LFC



Family shows us and how together we can make a positive difference to thousands of youngsters."

Meanwhile €748,000 has been raised for the Sean Cox Rehabilitation Trust following the charity game at Dublin's Aviva Stadium. Nearly 27,000 fans turned out to support Sean and watch a team of Reds legends beat a Republic of Ireland XI, final score 2-1.

Club chief-executive Peter Moore has thanked followers of Liverpool and many other football clubs "for their unwavering loyalty in supporting this game, and also the Football Association of Ireland and its partners for helping us deliver such a magnificent event."

The club looks forward to welcoming Sean and his family back to Anfield in the future.

NOEL WHITE 1929-2019



The club and Sir Kenny Dalglish pay tribute to one of its greatest servants behind the scenes at Anfield and elsewhere for over two decades

Liverpool Football Club was deeply saddened by the passing of former director and chairman Noel White on 30 June this year. He was 89.

A hugely respected figure in the local and national game, Noel served as a director at Anfield for 21 years after joining the club from Altrincham FC. Special tribute was paid by Sir Kenny Dalglish, manager at the time of White's arrival.

"Noel was a good man and his loss is keenly felt," he told the club's website. "In his time at Liverpool he demonstrated his commitment in many ways, none more so than when he invested his own money into the club during a period when such support was required.

"The work he did in the aftermath of Hillsborough, particularly in relation to organising the club's involvement at the funerals that followed, underlined both his compassion and his diligence at a time when such qualities were required.

"I count myself as fortunate to have worked with Noel and my only disappointment in this respect is that we were not colleagues for particularly long due to my own decision to step down as manager in 1991.

"More than anything else, my thoughts at this time are with his wife, Jean, and the rest of his family. Noel was a good servant to Liverpool and he will be remembered as such."

White had been chairman of Altrincham between 1967 and 1986 before spending two decades on the Liverpool FC board, until his departure in 2006, and briefly took the role of Reds chairman at the beginning of the 1990s.

On its own website the Premier League added it was "very sad to hear of the passing of Noel White. He made a huge contribution to English football, including being integral to the formation of the Premier League while chairman of Liverpool FC.

"As well as being a founding member of our competition, he was a great servant to the game at all levels with important roles at Altrincham FC and the FA held over many years."

Noel's influence and impact on the game in this country was further recognised in 2013 when he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to football.

The thoughts of everybody at Liverpool FC are with Noel's family and friends at this sad time.

WHAT'S IN



LIVE IT





2019/20

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MENS (MS93017) *£29.99*
JUNIOR (JS93017) £24.99





BABY AWAY KIT 19/20
(BY93019) £37.99

INFANT AWAY KIT 19/20
(IY93019) £42.99





AWAY SHIRT 19/20
MENS (MT93013) £59.99
JUNIOR (JT93013) £47.99

AWAY SOCKS 19/20
MENS (MA93018) £12.99
JUNIOR (JA93018) £12.99

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JUNIOR (JA93927) £12.99

INFANT AWAY GOALKEEPER KIT 19/20
(IY93928) £42.99

BABY AWAY GOALKEEPER KIT 19/20
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What's On

JULY /AUG

'TWO TEAMS ONE CLUB' HIT AMERICA

Liverpool FC Women will embark on their first ever pre-season tour of the United States in July, with coach Vicky Jepson's squad crossing the Atlantic on 16 July, alongside Jürgen Klopp's team as they prepare for the new Women's Super League season.

Hosted by the club's official family partner, Joie Baby, the girls will take part in a training camp and play twice.

First they'll face Cleveland Ambassadors at Notre Dame University, while the men play Klopp's former club Borussia Dortmund in South Bend, Indiana.

Then it's a match against New York Athletic at Boston University with the men playing Sevilla FC at Fenway Park, home of the Red Sox.

In New York the women's squad will continue community activities before watching the men take on Sporting Lisbon at the Yankee Stadium.

Club chief-executive Peter Moore says: "I'm absolutely delighted we are returning to the USA this summer with not one but two LFC teams.

"Ensuring LFC Women could embark on their first ever tour of America is another sign of our commitment to the 'two teams but one club' ethos."

It's hoped the tour will continue to raise the profile of the women's game following the FIFA Women's World Cup in France.

Reds boss Vicky Jepson adds: "This is my fourth year attending the LFC pre-season tour with the men's team. However, this year is extra special with it being the first time the women's team has been included – and we are now travelling as one big football family."

Once the US tour ends, the men



play Napoli on Sunday 28 July at Murrayfield. The Edinburgh ground hosted the Scottish League Cup semi-final between Celtic and Hearts last October. A training camp will then be held in France with Liverpool finishing the month by playing French champions Lyon in Geneva on Wednesday 31 July.

Then they take on Manchester City at Wembley in the FA Community Shield on Sunday 4 August before the Premier League season kicks off at home to Norwich City the following Friday.



ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

45 years since Ray Kennedy (right) joined from Arsenal on 12 July.
45 years since Bill Shankly announced his shock resignation on 12 July.
58 years since Ron Yeats signed from Dundee United on 22 July.
81 years since Billy Liddell joined from Lochgelly Violet on 27 July.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Alberto Aquilani
35 on 7 July

Virgil van Dijk
28 on 8 July

John Achterberg
48 on 8 July

Robbie Keane
39 on 8 July

Michael Robinson
61 on 12 July

Craig Bellamy
40 on 13 July



Peter Cormack
73 on 17 July

Roger Hunt
81 on 20 July

Mike Marsh
50 on 21 July

Dirk Kuyt
39 on 22 July

Ray Kennedy
68 on 28 July

Jim Beglin
56 on 29 July



2019/20 Fixtures

AUGUST		SCORE/KO	TV
Sun 04	Manchester City (CS, N)	3pm	Sky
Fri 09	Norwich City (H)	7.45pm	Sky
Wed 14	Chelsea (Super Cup, N)	8pm	BT
Sat 17	Southampton (A)	3pm	
Sat 24	Arsenal (H)	3pm	
Sat 31	Burnley (A)	3pm	
SEPTEMBER			
Sat 14	Newcastle United (H)	3pm	
T/W 17/18	UCL Matchday 1	TBC	BT
Sat 21	Chelsea (A)	3pm	
Wed 25	Carabao Cup 3	TBC	BT
Sat 28	Sheffield United (A)	3pm	
OCTOBER			
T/W 01/02	UCL Matchday 2	TBC	BT
Sat 05	Leicester City (H)	3pm	
Sat 19	Manchester United (A)	3pm	
T/W 22/23	UCL Matchday 3	TBC	BT
Sat 26	Tottenham Hotspur (H)	3pm	
Wed 30	Carabao Cup 4	TBC	
NOVEMBER			
Sat 02	Aston Villa (A)	3pm	
T/W 05/06	UCL Matchday 4	TBC	BT
Sat 09	Manchester City (H)	3pm	
Sat 23	Crystal Palace (A)	3pm	
T/W 25/26	UCL Matchday 5	TBC	BT
Sat 31	Brighton (H)	3pm	
DECEMBER			
Wed 04	Everton (H)	8pm	AP
Sat 07	Bournemouth (A)	3pm	
T/W 11/12	UCL Matchday 6	TBC	BT
Sat 14	Watford (H)	3pm	
Wed 18	Carabao Cup QF	TBC	
Sat 21	West Ham United (A)	TBC	
Thu 26	Leicester City (A)	3pm	AP
Sat 28	Wolverhampton W (H)	3pm	
JANUARY			
Wed 01	Sheffield United (H)	3pm	
Sat 03	FA Cup 3	TBC	
Wed 08	Carabao Cup SF 1	TBC	
Sat 11	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	3pm	
Sat 18	Manchester United (H)	3pm	
Tue 21	Wolverhampton W (A)	7.45pm	
Sat 25	FA Cup 4	TBC	
Wed 29	Carabao Cup SF 2	TBC	
FEBRUARY			
Sat 01	Southampton (H)	3pm	
Sat 08/15	Norwich City (A)	TBC	
T/W 18/19	UCL last 16 1	TBC	BT
Sat 22	West Ham United (H)	3pm	
T/W 25/26	UCL last 16 1	TBC	BT
Sat 29	Watford (A)	3pm	
MARCH			
Sun 01	Carabao Cup final (N)	TBC	
Wed 04	FA Cup 5	TBC	
Sat 07	Bournemouth (H)	3pm	
T/W 10/11	UCL last 16 2	TBC	BT
Sat 14	Everton (A)	3pm	
T/W 17/18	UCL last 16 2	TBC	BT
Sat 21	Crystal Palace (H)	3pm	
Sat 21	FA Cup 6	TBC	
APRIL			
Sat 04	Manchester City (A)	3pm	
T/W 07/08	UCL QF 1	TBC	BT
Sat 11	Aston Villa (H)	3pm	
T/W 14/15	UCL QF 2	TBC	BT
Sat 18	Brighton (A)	3pm	
Sat 18	FA Cup SF	TBC	
Sat 25	Burnley (H)	3pm	
T/W 28/29	UCL SF 1	TBC	BT
MAY			
Sat 02	Arsenal (A)	3pm	
T/W 05/06	UCL SF 2	TBC	BT
Sat 09	Chelsea (H)	3pm	
Sun 17	Newcastle (A)	3pm	
Sat 23	FA Cup final (N)	TBC	
Sat 30	UCL final (N)	TBC	BT

All fixtures subject to change. AP = Amazon Prime



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